



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-041
Friday
1 March 1991

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBI/NEA-91-041

CONTENTS

1 March 1991

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Foreign Ministry Reacts to Gulf Cease-Fire [Algeria Radio]	1
'Acad' Meets Benjedid, Comments on Withdrawal [APS]	1
Humanitarian Aid Provided to Iraq [APS]	1

Egypt

Communique Updates Forces' Operations 27 Feb [MENA]	1
General Command Statement on War Casualties 28 Feb [Cairo Radio]	2
Further Reportage on University Disturbances	2
AFP Says Protests Continue	2
Classes Said Normal, No Demonstrations [MENA]	2

Libya

Al-Qadhafi Contacts Foreign Leaders on Gulf War	2
Egypt's Mubarak [Tugoli TV]	2
USSR's Gorbachev [Tugoli International]	3
Syria's Al-Assad [Tugoli International]	3
14th Anniversary of Jamahiriyah Celebrated [MENA]	3

Sudan

RCC Says Iraqi Withdrawal Not Defeat [MENA]	3
Al-Bashir Comments on Arab Stand on Gulf War [MENA]	3

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Papers Comment on 'Death' of 'Shaher al-Battal' [WIKH]	5
--	---

Kuwait

Amir Decree Forms Higher Security Committee [London KUNA]	5
Communique Thanks Austria for Support in Crisis [Vienna WIENER ZEITUNG 28 Feb]	5
Special Forces Storm Iraqi Hideout [Kuwait Radio]	6
Saudi Commander of Joint Forces Arrives [Kuwait Radio]	6
Syria Raises Flag at Kuwait City Embassy [Damascus Radio]	6
New French Ambassador Arrives 28 Feb [Paris Radio]	6
Oil Company To Open Pumps, Offer Free Gasoline [Radio Kuwait]	6
Oil Well Fires Expected To Destroy Forces [Tokyo YODO]	6

Qatar

Ham Al-Sayid Receives French Minister Message [WIKH]	7
--	---

Saudi Arabia

Fahd, Bush Exchange 'Identical' Views on Gulf	[SPA]	7
Communique 41 Discusses Iraqi Tanks, POW's	[Riyadh TV]	7
Papers View Kuwait's Liberation, Iraq's Defeat	[SPA]	7
Saddam Withdrawal Said Attempt To Save Regime		
[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 27 Feb]		8
Paper Sees 'Confusion' in Soviet Mideast Policy	[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 26 Feb]	8

IRAQ

'Aziz Makes Statement on Allied Troops' Presence	[Baghdad Radio]	10
UN Envoy Details UNSC Debate on Cease-Fire	[Amman Radio]	10
Delegation Head Says 'Immoral Means' Used in War	[Baghdad Radio]	10
Bahraini Student Federation Cables Saddam	[Baghdad Radio]	11
Jordanian Paper Sees 'No Signs' of Popular Revolt	[Amman JORDAN TIMES 1 Mar]	11
'Great Part' of War Machine Said Still Intact	[Amman JORDAN TIMES]	12
Arabian Peninsula Front Expresses Support	[INA]	12
Egyptian, Palestinian Demonstrations Noted	[Baghdad Radio]	12
Student Confederation Salutes Egyptians	[Baghdad Radio]	13
Baghdad Said 'Calm,' Citizens Returning Home	[Tehran TV]	13
Reports Cited on 'Fiercest' Tank Battle	[Baghdad Radio]	13
Baghdad Radio Talks, Commentaries on Situation		13
Nation 'Stronger' After Each Aggression		13
Nation Can Rebuild in 'Record Time'		14
Israeli 'Formula' Said Ended		14
Nation Said 'United' Behind Leadership		15
Cease-Fire Decision Viewed		15
Talk Says U.S. 'Aura' Demolished		15
'Many Lessons' Taught to Allies		16
Baghdad's 'Very Clear' Victory Stressed		16
Destruction of 'Forces of Invasion' Urged		17
Editorial Condemns Bush, 'Destructive Scheme'	[INA]	17
'Informed Sources' See Imminent Military Coup		
[London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI 28 Feb]		18
LE MONDE: Saddam Seeks Asylum in Algeria	[AFP]	18
'Secret Report' Says Saddam Told To Step Down		
[London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI 1 Mar]		19
Exiled General Asks for POW's To Topple Saddam	[Hamburg DPA]	19
Islamists Call On Army To 'Topple' Saddam	[VOFI]	19

ISRAEL

Levi Presents Cease-Fire Arrangements	[Tel Aviv Radio]	21
Considers Demands 'Just'	[Jerusalem Radio]	21
Shamir Urges Elimination of Missiles, Other Arms	[Jerusalem Radio]	22
Shamir: Gulf War Boosts Extremists in Arab World	[THE JERUSALEM POST 27 Feb]	23
Defense Minister Arens Discusses Gulf Situation		23
Interviewed on Peace Process	[Jerusalem TV]	23
Comments on Gulf Developments	[Jerusalem Domestic]	24
Views Security Needs	[Tel Aviv TV]	27
Ne'eman Discusses Baker's Visit, Inaction in Gulf	[Jerusalem Radio]	28
14 May 1989 Plan To Be Discussed With Baker	[Tel Aviv Radio]	29
Ben-Aharon: Peace Only Through U.S. Cooperation	[Tel Aviv Radio]	29
Ben-Aharon on Lessons Learned From Gulf War	[Tel Aviv TV]	30
Sources Pleased With Saddam's Defeat; Ze'evi Speaks	[Tel Aviv Radio]	31
Unlicensed Arabs Will Not Be Allowed To Work	[Jerusalem Radio]	31

JORDAN

King Praises Nation, Discusses Mideast Future	[Amman Radio]	32
Foreign Minister Welcomes Cease-Fire in Gulf	[Amman Radio]	34
Source Denies Post-August Arms Shipment to Iraq	[Amman Radio]	34
State Asks U.S. To Shield Jordanians in Kuwait	[AFP]	34
House Speaker Meets Iraqi Assembly Official	[PETRA-JNA]	35
10,000 Demonstrate in Solidarity With Iraq	[JORDAN TIMES 1 Mar]	35
Gulf Peace Team Delivers Petition to U.S. Envoy	[JORDAN TIMES 27 Feb]	36
Oil Shipment Arrives From Yemen	[AL-DUSTUR 28 Feb]	36
Paper Reports Capture, 'Massacre' of Egyptians	[AKHBAR AL-USBU 28 Feb]	36
Iraq 'Triumphed' Over 'Aggression Alliance'	[SAWT AL-SHA'B 28 Feb]	37

LEBANON

Al-Hirawi Returns From Damascus, Reviews Talks		38
Gulf War Effects Discussed	[Beirut Radio]	38
Al-Asad: Events 'Positive' for Nation	[Beirut Radio]	38
Supreme Defense Council Meets; Decisions 'Secret'	[Beirut Radio]	38
Explosions Reported Near Kuwaiti Offices	[RFL]	38

SYRIA

Al-Asad Phones Fahd, Kuwaiti Official on Gulf	[SANA]	39
Phoned by Qatari Amir	[Damascus Radio]	39
Al-Asad, Spanish King Discuss War Aftermath	[Damascus Radio]	39
Al-Shar' Views Western Ties, Regional Issues	[London TV]	39
Prime Minister Receives Kuwait Amir's Envoy	[SANA]	39
Kuwaitis Hail 'Al-Asad's Syria' for 'Major Role'	[Damascus Radio]	40
Italian Official Delivers Andreotti Message		40
Received by Al-Asad	[SANA]	40
Envoy Notes Talks, Departs	[SANA]	40
Paper Details Local Administration Law	[SYRIA TIMES 17 Feb]	41

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Prime Minister Meets Soviet Delegations	[Kabul Radio]	42
---	---------------	----

Bangladesh

Nationalist Party Wins 140 Seats in Parliament	[Dhaka Radio]	42
Awami League Chief Protests	[AFP]	42
Observers Say Elections 'Neutral'	[Dhaka International]	43
3 Die in Postelection Violence	[AFP]	43
Former Ershad Aide Arrested After Losing in Polls	[AFP]	43

India

Official Statement Welcomes Gulf War Suspension	[ISI]	43
Gandhi Calls For Restructuring of United Nations	[Delhi Radio]	44
German President Arrives, Assures Aid To Iraq	[Delhi Radio]	44
Germany To Give Financial Aid	[Delhi Radio]	44
Student Group Claims Kidnapping of MP's Daughter	[Delhi Radio]	44
Police Officer Released	[Delhi Radio]	45
Unidentified Gunmen Kill Four in Assam	28 Feb [Delhi Radio]	45

Iran

Velayati Rejects 'Alien Interference' in Iraq	[Tehran Radio]	45
'Speedy Departure' of Foreign Forces Sought	[Tehran Radio]	46
Commentary Warns Against Sacrificing Interests	[Tehran Radio]	46
Commentary Views Saddam's 'Unwise Decisions'	[Tehran Radio]	46
Iraq's 'Humiliation', West's Actions Viewed	[Tehran International]	47
Iraqi Leaders' 'Expansionist Desire' Criticized	[Tehran Radio]	48
Government Offers To Help Extinguish Oil Fires	[IRNA]	48
Effects of Abolishing Gas Coupons Analyzed	[Tehran Radio]	49
19, 20, 21, 24 Feb Editorials View Gulf Issues		49
'Precarious Oil Wealth'	[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 19 Feb]	49
'Another War Tomorrow?'	[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 20 Feb]	50
Postwar 'Political Development'	[TEHRAN TIMES 20 Feb]	51
Iraqi-Soviet Relationship Viewed	[ETTELA'AT 21 Feb]	51
'A Hard Decision'	[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 24 Feb]	52
'Hypocrisy' of Disarming Iraq	[TEHRAN TIMES 24 Feb]	52
Reportage on Karrubi's Visit to North Korea	[cross-reference]	52
* RESALAT Report on 24 Jan Majles Session	[26 Jan]	

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal

Nepali Congress Sure of Majority in May Polls	[AFP]	56
---	-------	----

Pakistan

Nawaz Sharif Urges Gulf Security Plan	[Islamabad Radio]	57
On Role in Postwar Gulf	[Islamabad Radio]	57
Editorial Views Saddam's Belligerence	[THE PAKISTAN TIMES 1 Mar]	58
Implementation of UN Resolutions Urged	[Islamabad Radio]	

Sri Lanka

Security Forces Prepare Operation in Northeast	[Colombo International]	58
Wijeratne Says Council for Northeast Unnecessary	[LANKAPUVATHI]	58

Algeria

Foreign Ministry Reacts to Gulf Cease-Fire

LD2802194191 Algiers Domestic Service in French
1800 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] We turn immediately to Algeria's reaction to events in the Gulf, which is in fact a statement by the spokesman of the Algerian Foreign Ministry:

The Security Council should immediately declare a cease-fire and obtain without delay the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Iraqi territory. It is also the duty of the Security Council to entrust the secretary general with immediately setting up appropriate mechanisms for the preservation of peace, the consolidation of the cease-fire, the withdrawal of foreign forces from Iraqi territory, and the exchange of prisoners.

Because the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait is complete, certain measures that were taken against Iraq by the Security Council no longer have their *raison d'être*. The lifting of these measures and the commitment of the Security Council to guarantee and respect the territorial integrity of Iraq and Kuwait are necessary to foster appeasement and the establishment of a climate appropriate to the necessary reconstruction of Iraq and Kuwait.

Algeria considers that the task of addressing security preoccupations for the future is the sole responsibility of the regional countries. Algeria reminds the members of the Security Council and the whole international community of their commitment to reach an urgent and final settlement of all the problems of the Middle East, particularly the Palestinian issue.

These are the key elements of the statement by the spokesman of the Algerian Foreign Ministry.

'Arafat Meets Bendjedid, Comments on Withdrawal

LD2702131391 Algiers APS in English 1100 GMT
27 Feb 91

[Text] Algiers, 27 Feb (APS)—President Chadli Bendjedid yesterday met Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and of the PLO Executive Committee. At the end of the audience 'Arafat declared: "The seriousness of the situation rests at the present time on the U.S. and the allied decision to continue war in spite of the Iraqi withdrawal which will end today."

"The objective of this war, 'Arafat indicated, is not to liberate Kuwait, but to attack the Iraqi people, to destroy their military forces, to impose the new U.S. order and to enslave this region. This objective, he added, was disclosed by the U.S. President in one of his declarations." [quotation marks as received]

"This question, the president of the State of Palestine pointed out, demands more than ever from the Arab nation a firm position by the side of the brotherly Iraq in

order to put an end to this war of madness and revenge which has destroyed the infrastructures of Iraq and overtake the UN resolutions." [quotation marks, sentence as received]

"The most important thing is that Arab, Islamic, and Soviet efforts or of certain European countries be unified to establish the cease-fire and reach a global peace in the region," 'Arafat pointed out.

Humanitarian Aid Provided to Iraq

LD2702115491 Algiers APS in English 1050 GMT
27 Feb 91

[Text] Algiers, 27 Feb (APS)—The Algerian Medical Union has sent six tons of medicine to Baghdad. This is according to a communique of the union, the fifth shipment of medicine organized by the union thanks to gifts from citizens and as well as public and private organisms. The union has thus managed to send to its medical teams operating in Baghdad 16 tons of medicine and products used in urgent surgical operations. Moreover, the union launched a call on all those who would like to provide a contribution to this humanitarian aid pointing out that with the intensification of the war and the considerable increase of injured, the needs expressed required more important means.

Egypt

Communique Updates Forces' Operations 27 Feb

NC2702182591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1741 GMT
27 Feb 91

[Text] Cairo, 27 Feb (MENA)—The Egyptian Armed Forces today successfully completed the main phase of their combat missions within the framework of the plan to liberate Kuwait. Units of the 4th Armored Division and elements of Egyptian shock troops entered the Kuwaiti capital.

An Egyptian military communique said that the 4th Division overran the positions and defenses of the opposing forces. The 4th Division carried out a quick, widespread flanking operation covering 135 km to face one of the Iraqi invading divisions which opened fire. Fighting ensued for several hours and resulted in the destruction of most of the Iraqi division's equipment and the capture of large numbers of its personnel of various ranks.

The Egyptian military communique said that a number of tanks and artillery pieces and large quantities of ammunition were seized. The 4th Armored Division then dispatched a mechanized brigade supported by artillery and commando units in the direction of Kuwait City to complete, with the joint Arab forces, the liberation of the Kuwaiti capital.

A unit from the Egyptian Armed Forces raised the Egyptian flag over the building housing the Egyptian Embassy.

The 4th Armored Division had earlier liberated the Kuwaiti town of al-Jahra' and the 'Ali Salim base from the Iraqi invasion forces following clashes with armored vehicles and strongholds.

Meanwhile, units of the 3d Mechanized Division advanced toward new targets following repeated clashes during which they overran the defenses and ramparts of one of the Iraqi invasion divisions and captured a large number of personnel.

The 3d Mechanized Division also seized large number of weapons, equipment, and ammunition.

The Egyptian military communique said that the Egyptian forces are continuing their tasks within the framework of completing the liberation of the State of Kuwait.

General Command Statement on War Casualties 28 Feb

NC2802203091 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1830 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Statement by Armed Forces General Command—date not given]

[Text] The Egyptian forces have completed all their combat duties with the utmost success. Today our forces took up positions to secure the areas inside and outside the Kuwaiti capital and in other designated places in the liberated State of Kuwait.

The forces' command has tallied the losses according to the combat log from the start of operations until they ended today. The losses have been very limited, thanks to God's providence and granting success. The casualties are as follows:

1. A captain and eight noncommissioned officers and men have been martyred. Their next of kin were notified this afternoon.
2. Seventy-four men of various ranks have been wounded. Forty of these were treated in the field and rejoined their units. The rest of the wounded are in satisfactory condition under full medical care. These casualties are considered minimal in view of established military figures when compared with the size of the offensive operations carried out by our forces in the various stages of the battle to liberate Kuwait. Our forces fought and highly performed all forms of combat in the desert and in cities under difficult weather and climatic conditions.

Our forces—both officers and men—have demonstrated maximum courage, intrepidity, and utmost ability both in night- and daytime operations. The Armed Forces assert that this success has been accomplished by virtue

of belief in God and the homeland and because of the support and backing of the political leadership and the noble Egyptian people.

Further Reportage on University Disturbances

AFP Says Protests Continue

NC2702185791 Paris AFP in English 1831 GMT
27 Feb 91

[Text] Cairo, Feb 27 (AFP)—Police here Wednesday fired rubber bullets at stone-throwing students at Cairo University where thousands protested the U.S.-led offensive against Iraq for the third day running, correspondents said.

Demonstrators, also angry over the death of one student in clashes with police Monday, shouted slogans against Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and set rubbish barrels alight to prevent the advance of security forces.

They earlier marched through the campus carrying a coffin to symbolize the death of one of their colleagues.

Interior Minister General 'Abd-al-Halim Musa earlier Wednesday warned that security forces "would show firmness" in dealing with any future demonstrations.

Gen. Musa on Tuesday said one student had been killed Monday and eight policemen hurt. But student sources insist that at least two demonstrators died and that several more were hurt in the clashes.

Protesters earlier this week denounced not only Mr. Mubarak and the United States but Iraqi President Saddam Husayn as well.

Egypt is a key Arab member of the international alliance ranged against Iraq and its troops took part in the offensive to drive Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

Classes Said Normal; No Demonstrations

NC2802171491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1642 GMT
28 Feb 91

[Text] Cairo, 28 Feb (MENA)—Classes at Cairo University returned to normal today. There were no demonstrations on campus or outside the university.

Libya

Al-Qadhafi Contacts Foreign Leaders on Gulf War

Egypt's Mubarak

LD2702215191 Tripoli Libyan Television Network
in Arabic 1930 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution yesterday and today has been making intensive contacts with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak because Egypt is considered an effective participant in the allied forces. It also has

35,000 soldiers who have been taking part in the battle and it has a place in the alliance.

The consultations have centered on the need to realize a ceasefire now that Iraq has completed the withdrawal of its forces from Kuwait. The ceasefire acceptance is confronted with difficulties. The United Nations Security Council and the international forces which are implementing its resolutions—which called for the use of force against Iraq to make it leave Kuwait—have taken the view that Iraq has not accepted all the resolutions and that there are matters which are linked to confidence and credibility.

President Mubarak telephoned U.S. President Bush and Soviet President Gorbachev in this respect, but on the basis that Iraq will accept the 12 United Nations Security Council resolutions which were announced today and a ceasefire will take place. Consultations to arrive at this end are still continuing in an effort to rescue what remains of the Iraqi Army and Iraqi potential.

USSR's Gorbachev

LD2802093691 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0300 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Brother leader of the revolution Colonel Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi sent a cable last night to Soviet President Gorbachev. The following is the text of the cable: The U.S. and British forces have exceeded the red line and are now operating outside the provisions of the UN Security Council resolutions and the UN Charter, practicing unlimited oppression, destroying whole towns, and killing unarmed children, women, and elderly on a wide scale. As a world power, the USSR is in a position to shoulder its full responsibilities toward a just peace.

What is being carried out presently by these forces completely shatters the basis on which their countries relied in launching the Kuwaiti liberation operation. These countries are now doing [to Iraq] exactly what Iraq did to Kuwait.

Hence, the UN Security Council should adopt a resolution similar to the 12 resolutions, including a resolution providing for the use of force against the countries participating in the aggression on Iraq, because what they are doing is in fact an occupation of Iraq.

Signed: Colonel Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi.

Syria's Al-Asad

LD2802102791 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0300 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Brother leader of the revolution Colonel Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi phoned President Hafiz al-Asad of the Syrian [Arab] Republic at midnight last night to ask him to work to halt the intentional humiliation and occupation to which Iraq is being subjected by the United States

and Britain, and to stop the devastation to which the Iraqi people are being exposed.

For his part, President Hafiz al-Asad affirmed to the brother leader of the revolution that Syria will not accept the humiliation of the Iraqi people and that the occupation operation must stop.

14th Anniversary of Jamahiriyah Celebrated

LD2803153191 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0900 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 28 Feb [JANA]—The popular celebration of the 14th anniversary of the declaration of the people's authority and the birth of the first Jamahiriyah in history will begin in Tripoli as of Thursday.

The Tripoli Municipality has prepared an extensive program that includes inter alia the opening of the first Mislatah Conventional Industries Fair at the Khoms Municipality today. [passage omitted]

Sudan

RCC Says Iraqi Withdrawal Not Defeat

EA0103151091 Khartoum SUNA in English 1050 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] Khartoum, 1 March (SUNA)—The peace and foreign relations committee at the RCC [Revolution Command Council] Thursday [28 February] held its regular meeting under the chairmanship of Col Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah.

Col Khalifah, head of the committee, has briefed the meeting on the outcome of his recent visit to the Upper Nile state of southern Sudan in the framework of the government trend to brief citizens on the current issues, including the implementation of the federal system of government in the country.

The committee has meanwhile heard a briefing by the foreign minister, 'Ali Ahmad Sahlu, on the RCC chairman's recent tour which covered a number of Arab countries including Syria, Jordan and Maghreb states.

The committee members also reviewed the current situation in the Gulf region and the postwar state, welcoming the cease-fire and expressing hope that it would be a permanent one. They also arrived to the conclusion that the Iraq decision to withdraw from Kuwait represent a current political and military step, but stressed it was never a defeat.

Al-Bashir Comments on Arab Stand on Gulf War

EA2802120191 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Excerpt] Khartoum 27 Feb (SUNA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council, has said that an Arab stand has now

taken shape to direct efforts aimed at convening a foreign ministers meeting of Arab countries. The meeting's objective is to attain a unified view regarding the current situation following Gulf war developments. Lieutenant General al-Bashir added that once such a view is attained, it could be submitted to Arab leaders for examination.

This morning al-Bashir said in his meeting with senior newsmen that his consultation with a number of leaders of fraternal Arab countries was to form a united view regarding the Gulf war and to find a way to stop it and contain its effects. He said that this had been discussed with leaders of Libya, Jordan, Tunisia, Palestine, Mauritania, and Algeria.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir praised the steadfastness of the Iraqi Army and people in the face of the most cruel [words indistinct] produced by Western weapons arsenals. He

also praised the steadfastness of the Iraqi Armed Forces and people in the face of the blockade which continued for months.

In his meeting with senior media men today, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir expressed the hope that efforts made by good people to end the Gulf war would succeed. The war was aimed at the Iraqi people and resources, and the allies' continuation of the war, even though Iraq announced its acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 660 and the withdrawal of its forces from Kuwait, proved this. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir welcomed Soviet efforts to stop the war.

His excellency called on all Arabs to forget their differences, rise above their injuries, and turn to each other because the new world design [words indistinct] the new world order would adversely affect all Arabs. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Papers Comment on 'Death' of 'Mother of Battles'

NC0103153191 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0715 GMT
1 Mar 91

[Excerpt] Manama, 1 Mar (WAKH)—[passage omitted] Two Bahraini newspapers have affirmed that the process of liberating Kuwait has ended and the allies' complete victory been realized as the Iraqi regime has started accepting condolences, if it has anyone to offer it condolences on the death of the mother of battles.

AL-AYYAM said that the allied victory, the liberation of Kuwait, and the annihilation of the Iraqi Army was witnessed by the world clearly and vividly on television. Some of the media organs in some countries that support Iraq, however, see this issue as nothing more than a "lie" although they did not support Iraq after the end of the mother of battles.

For its part, AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ expressed its hope that this black page in the history of the Arab nation will be turned in accordance with new views and bases which will absorb the lessons of the nation and work to overcome its pains.

In its commentary, the newspaper expressed its hope that the joys of Kuwait over its victory and freedom will be a constructive and firm step which will be adopted and manifested to guarantee that our Gulf and Arab nation will not be subjected to such chaos again. This cannot be achieved except after overcoming the post-war stage to establish permanent security and stability in the whole region. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Amir Decree Forms Higher Security Committee

LD2802183291 London KUNA in Arabic 1735 GMT
28 Feb 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] Al-Ta'if, 28 Feb (KUNA)—His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah has issued a decree on the creation of a Higher Security Committee to be in charge of drawing up the policy on protecting security and integrity inside and outside the state.

The decree stipulates that the committee be created under the chairmanship of the prime minister, Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah [customary heir apparent title not received].

Here follows the text of the decree:

Decree No. 91/3 on the creation of a Higher Security Committee. —After examining the constitution;
—and the amiri decree issued on 3 July 1987;
—and the amiri decree issued on 3 August 1990;

—and on the basis of the proposal made by the prime minister;
—and after the approval of the Council of Ministers;
we have issued the following decree:

Article 1. A committee will be created under the name of the Higher Security Committee, which will be in charge of drawing up the policies on the protection of security and integrity inside and outside the state.

Article 2. The committee will be created under the chairman of the Council of Ministers [prime minister] and the membership of a number of ministers, and others. A decree will be issued when the committee is created.

Article 3. the tasks of the committee will be:

1. Drawing up the general policies for to guaranteeing the state's security and integrity and protecting its stability.
2. Issuing the necessary directives to the ministries and other governmental bodies concerned with affairs affecting the country's security and integrity.
3. Studying the reports and proposals made by the competent bodies on matters relevant to their competence.
4. Proposing laws and decrees on the country's security and integrity.

Article 4. The committee will have a general secretariat whose actions will be determined by a decision made by the committee's chairman. The General Secretariat will be chaired by a secretary general appointed by the committee's chairman.

Article 5. The committee will draw up statutes to throw light on its code of practice, about which a decree will be issued by the committee's chairman.

Article 6. The committee's meetings will be secret, and it will not be permitted to publish news, information, or reports about its meetings without written agreement from its chairman.

Article 7. The prime minister and the ministers—each according to what is relevant to them—must implement this law, which comes into force from the date of its publication.

[Signed] The amir of the State of Kuwait, Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir
Chairman of the Council of Ministers Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah
Issued on 27 February 1991 [date as received]

Communique Thanks Austria for Support in Crisis

AU2802115691 Vienna WIENER ZEITUNG
in German 28 Feb 91 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Kuwait Thanks Austria"]

[Text] Kuwait has expressed its special appreciation for Austria's position on the Gulf crisis.

A communique issued by the Kuwaiti Embassy in Vienna says that "we wholeheartedly thank the Austrian people and the Austrian Government, who from the start adopted a courageous stance in supporting Kuwait against the (Iraqi) aggression."

Special Forces Storm Iraqi Hideout

LD0103013691 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic
0030 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Excerpt] A detachment of Kuwaiti special forces yesterday stormed two houses in a suburb of Kuwait in which 30 Iraqi soldiers were hiding. A Kuwaiti officer told the GULF NEWS AGENCY [WAKH] that the Iraqi soldiers did not surrender when they were urged to do so by the Kuwaiti forces. Fire was exchanged with light weapons for 30 minutes, during which men of the Kuwaiti force stormed the two houses and killed 22 Iraqi soldiers. The remainder of the Iraqi soldiers were captured. [passage omitted]

Saudi Commander of Joint Forces Arrives

LD0103013191 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic
0030 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Excerpt] His Royal Highness Prince Khalid Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, staff general and commander of the joint forces and theater of operations, has arrived in Kuwait City. [passage omitted]

Syria Raises Flag at Kuwait City Embassy

NC0103070191 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0515 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] In Kuwait, and at 1530 Kuwaiti local time yesterday, the flag of the Syrian Arab Republic was flown atop the Syrian Embassy in liberated Kuwait City. The command of the Syrian Arab troops, a platoon of the Syrian honor guard, a large number of Syrian citizens residing in Kuwait, and a number of Kuwaiti citizens attended.

Everybody chanted "Long live" to President Hafiz al-Asad, the heroic people of Syria, and the Syrian Arab Army. They also chanted the national anthem of the Syrian Arab Republic and sang the song "My Beloved Syria." They also hailed fraternal Kuwait—people and government—and greeted President Hafiz al-Asad.

It is worth mentioning that during their presence in Kuwait, the Iraqi troops arrested a number of Syrian Arab citizens and moved them to Iraq. They are still detained there.

New French Ambassador Arrives 28 Feb

LD2802113791 Paris Domestic Service in French
1100 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Excerpt] Jean-Pierre Bressot, who was appointed French ambassador to Kuwait yesterday, has arrived in Kuwait. The bodies of the two French soldiers killed in

Iraq will be repatriated to Orleans tomorrow, probably in the afternoon. [passage omitted]

Oil Company To Open Pumps, Offer Free Gasoline

LD0103021991 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic
2321 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Brother citizens, honorable residents. The following is a statement by the Kuwaiti National Oil Company:

The Kuwaiti National Oil Company offers its profound congratulations to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait and his loyal heir apparent, and to the honorable Kuwaiti people. The company announces that it is about to open some gasoline pumping stations, the locations and number of which are stated below. It would like to draw attention to the fact that, in order to share the joy of liberation and victory, it has decided that fuel will be free, up to the maximum of 40 liters, until further notice. The company will open other pumping stations after they have been equipped. The stations will be open for eight hours, from 1000 until 1800. The stations are: 1) Al-Shu'aybaha station; 2) Sabhan station; 3) Doha station. The following stations maybe opened tomorrow: 1) Bayan station; 2) Abraq Khitan station.

All employees of the Kuwaiti National Oil Company's local marketing department are requested to report to the company's office in Sabhan to start putting the pumping stations into operation for the people.

Oil Well Fires Expected To Destroy Forests

OW2802121591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0900 GMT
28 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 28 KYODO—About 60 percent of forests in the Persian Gulf region will be damaged if fires at Kuwaiti oil wells continue for a year, a Japanese research institute said Thursday.

The Global Industrial and Social Progress Research Institute said that, if more than half the oil wells burned for a year, emissions of so-called "greenhouse" gases would be more than three times as much as those produced in Japan in one year.

Such emissions of greenhouse gases blamed by scientists for trapping heat in the atmosphere would cause acid rain that could destroy some 20 percent of forests in seven Gulf nations and damage another 20 percent seriously, the institute said.

The seven countries include Iraq, whose troops had reportedly set alight some 500 wells in Kuwait, blackening the skies and filling the air with the stench of burning petroleum.

The institute said Japan should consider aid not only for restoration of oil facilities in Kuwait but also for protection of the environment when it works out reconstruction measures for the Middle East.

Qatar

Heir Apparent Receives French Minister Message

NC2802103191 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0927 GMT
28 Feb 91

[Text] Doha, 28 Feb (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and defense minister, has received a written message from French Defense Minister Pierre Joxe dealing with the latest developments in the region and the relations of cooperation and friendship between the two friendly countries.

Pierre Ariola, French ambassador to Qatar, conveyed the message during a meeting with his highness the Qatari heir apparent and defense minister today.

Saudi Arabia

Fahd, Bush Exchange 'Identical' Views on Gulf

LD0103025891 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0221 GMT
1 Mar 91

[Text] Riyadh, 28 Feb [as received] (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, tonight received a telephone call from U.S. President George Bush. During the call, views were exchanged on the current situation in the Arabian Gulf region following the ceasefire, and a comprehensive assessment was made of new developments at the Arab and international levels, with a view toward achieving security and stability in the region and securing the establishment of a lasting and comprehensive peace for all the region's states.

SPA has learned that views are identical on the issues reviewed during the call.

Communique 41 Discusses Iraqi Tanks, POW's

LD2802204491 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television
Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Military Communique No. 41 issued by the Joint Forces and Theater of Operations Command in Riyadh on 28 February; read by Colonel al-Rubay'an—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, and the merciful. [Koranic verse omitted]

This is Military Communique No. 41, issued by Joint Forces and Theater of Operations Command in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on the 43d day of operation Desert Storm, 28 February.

An official source made a statement to SPA at dawn today, stressing the support and commitment of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the cease-fire in accordance with the conditions pronounced by U.S. President George Bush and for the time limit specified.

His Royal Highness General Khalid Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz, commander of the Joint Forces and Theater of Operations, traveled to Kuwait this morning to inspect the joint forces, which have completed their entry into Kuwait and have taken position in their specified sectors inside and outside Kuwait City. These forces are currently partitioning the city into sectors among the joint forces to cleanse and secure it.

At 1000 this morning, thanks to God, partial services were restored to Kuwait International Airport for receiving soldiers and diplomatic missions.

The joint forces continue to be supplied with fuel and ammunition and undertake land, air, and sea patrol activities as well as surveillance and mine-sweeping operations so as to remain in full vigilance and readiness. [passage omitted]

There were originally 4,280 Iraqi tanks; 3,708 tanks have been destroyed, with 572 tanks remaining. Fourteen percent of the tanks were left intact. Thirty-five percent of the armor remains, and 31 percent of the artillery.

Regarding the issue of POW's, it is as follows:

There are 6,495 POW's inside camp No. 1 in Saudi Arabia; 3,118 POW's in the 2d camp; 1,930 POW's in the third camp; 89 POW's in the fourth camp, and nine POW's are hospitalized. Thus the total number of POW's is 1,641. It is worth noting that only POW officers are kept in this [as heard] camp. There are huge numbers of POW's captured by units, totalling between 50,000 and 60,000 POW's. POW's held by our friends at the Bronx camp: 3,371; Brooklyn camp, 5,692; in hospital, 153, giving a total of 9,242 POW's. [passage omitted]

Papers View Kuwait's Liberation, Iraq's Defeat

LD2802110291

[Editorial Report] Riyadh SPA in Arabic at 0305 GMT on 28 February carries an approximately 400-word press review datelined Riyadh, 28 February, beginning with the following headlines:

"The custodian of the two holy mosques holds a telephone conversation with Shaykh Jaber al-Sabah to congratulate him on the liberation of Kuwait...and receives the Kuwaiti heir apparent.

"King Fahd receives ulama and elders, and congratulates the president of the Dominican Republic.

"The crown prince receives citizens.

"The crown prince and the second deputy [prime minister] see off Shaykh Sa'ud al-'Abdullah.

"His highness the commander of the Joint Forces officially announces the liberation of Kuwait and urges Kuwaiti masses not to rush home.

"Vanguard of the victors enter liberated Kuwait.

"Tank battles and the parachute landing of the joint forces in al-Nasiriyyah on the Euphrates, north of Basra, to block the path of retreating Iraqi forces.

"Only 15 Iraqi division out of 42 remain battleworthy. "Saddam ordered his forces to destroy oil wells. "Major...British forces entered British Embassy in liberated Kuwait."

SPA goes on to note that Saudi newspapers voiced their pleasure at the liberation of Kuwait and the expulsion of Iraqi troops; they stressed the need for Iraq to accept all UN resolutions; they pointed out that the joint forces avoided harming the Iraqi people; and they urged Iraqis to choose a new regime.

AL-YAWM said that Saddam had no choice but to surrender publicly or be defeated.

'UKAZ congratulated the Kuwait Government and people on the liberation of their country. The paper stressed that the joint forces have no territorial ambitions regarding Iraq.

AL-BILAD criticized those who stood by Iraq and described it as a weak country, although before the start of military operations they were describing it as a country capable of defeating the joint forces.

Saddam Withdrawal Said Attempt To Save Regime

*PM2802145891 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 27 Feb 91 p 9*

[Editorial: "Attempt To Escape the Cost of Catastrophe"]

[Text] The Iraqi president's decision to withdraw his forces from Kuwait is no surprise. It must be viewed in light of the balance of power that existed on the ground when the decision was taken. The picture was as follows: units of the coalition forces advancing into Kuwait to tighten the siege around the capital, and other units penetrating into Iraqi territory to encircle a major part of the Iraqi forces in Kuwait. We must add to this the picture of thousands of Iraqi troops rushing to surrender. This massive surrender of Iraqi troops is attributable not only to the coalition forces' superiority, but also to the troops' feeling that their leadership drove them into an unjust war and into what was a losing battle, by all standards. The best proof that this war lacks the Iraqi people's support are the reports that Iraqis immediately fired shots in the air, rejoicing at the decision to withdraw from Kuwait.

It is a losing war in military terms. It is a disappointing war by any popular standards—so much so that the Iraqis rejoiced at Saddam Husayn's backtracking on his decision to annex Kuwait.

In view of these incidents, the Iraqi president's decision to withdraw is an attempt to avoid the total defeat on the battlefield—a defeat whose characteristics seemed clear in the hours preceding Saddam's address. But the defeat has already taken place. A mere examination of the statements issued after the 2 August invasion and of the withdrawal offers issued in recent days reveal that Saddam was not serious about the linkage issue or about

serving the Palestinian cause, and that this was merely a plan to secure a leadership that tries to impose its presence and hegemony by iron and fire. Saddam Husayn took the path of a force based in the wrong in addressing his neighbors and the states of the region and the world. When the international community responded to him with a force based on right, he tried to delay the moment of truth, but his maneuvers have failed to achieve his ambitions.

The world has not witnessed such a tragedy since World War II: A ruler goes to war and tries to conceal a plan for domination behind a tide of slogans. Some desperate and deluded people applaud him and rush to join the sedition. He then abandons them in an attempt to escape with what is left of his military machine.

The moment Saddam Husayn felt that his remaining in Kuwait jeopardized his regime's survival in Baghdad, he started making maneuvers for a withdrawal, trying to base them on the Soviet proposals. But what is certain is that the opportunities to save face were lost long ago. This, because it is unreasonable for a single person to drive an entire region into a catastrophe and then to try to wash his hands of it, as though he had not done what he did.

Paper Sees 'Confusion' in Soviet Mideast Policy

*PM2802153491 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 26 Feb 91 p 9*

[Ghassan al-Imam article: "A Whisper To Our Soviet Friends"]

[Excerpts] The Arabs viewed Mikhail Gorbachev with admiration and amazement as he ended the ideological war, giving the world hope for an era of detente and peace. In doing so, he did not hesitate to lift the protective umbrella given to the European communist regimes of hardened repression and coercion. Realistically, he allowed the reunification of Germany. Even more importantly, he opened the way to democracy in an empire which had never known freedom under the reigns of its white and red czars. [passage omitted]

The new Soviet policy on the Arab world and the Middle East has been confused, however. True, Moscow did improve its relations with Egypt, turn over a new leaf with Saudi Arabia, and withdraw from South Yemen, but generally it still runs contrary to the spirit of glasnost that Gorbachev introduced to the Soviet Union and to his spirit of accord with the United States and the world.

I will give two clear examples of this confusion and contradiction. In so doing, it is not my intention to criticize, as others do in expression of blind hostility to the Soviet Union; nor is it my intention, in these critical hours in the history of the Arab nation, to allow feelings of hostility to outweigh the sentiments of cordiality and friendship between the Arabs and the Soviet Union; nor is it to show ingratitude to that superpower for its

position on Arab causes. I am just seizing this opportunity, in light of the latest Soviet diplomatic initiative on the Gulf issue, to express the anxiety and bitterness felt by the Arabs as they see detente gravely harming their pan-Arab cause, and as they see that the Soviet policy encouraging East Europe's liberation has not yet been translated into a firm and clear Soviet policy on the Middle East.

The first example is the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel. I do not wish to repeat what the Arabs have already said about that, but I will make the following brief observations:

1. The Soviet Union has submitted to the world Zionist pressures to permit such emigration in return for Western aid and advanced technology.

2. By allowing the emigration, the Soviets gave up a major bargaining card in any future negotiations for the settlement of the question of the occupied territory. There even was no definite precondition that they [Soviet Jews] would not be settled in Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza.

3. The Soviets overlooked the fact that the emigres have been denied the right and freedom to choose the country to which they want to emigrate. Consequently most of them have been taken forcibly to Israel.

4. The Soviets have been clearly dismissive of the catastrophic threat that the emigration of over a million Soviet Jews poses to pan-Arab security. During a meeting with an Arab League delegation, former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said, sarcastically and nonchalantly, that the Arabs are multiplying at a higher rate than the emigration. [passage omitted]

The second example of the confusion and contradiction of the Soviet Middle East policy is the latest Soviet initiative on the Gulf crisis.

The media paved the way for the initiative by speaking of a Soviet desire to prevent further bloodshed and to establish peace, but Moscow had enough time over several long months to establish peace by persuading Saddam Husayn to withdraw from Kuwait. Yes, Gorbachev and his diplomats did make some effort, and sometimes he did rebuke Saddam strongly and publicly; but that effort suddenly climaxed in Saddam's favor as the Arab and allied forces completed their preparations for the liberation of Kuwait by force and as Saddam and the Soviets realized that Saddam's forces would be defeated.

It appeared as though the Soviet initiative was meant not only to save Saddam Husayn from military defeat at the last moment but also to enable Saddam personally to

exploit a withdrawal on his own terms and to claim it as a major and resounding political victory. [passage omitted]

Even after the U.S. President regained the initiative with his ultimatum on withdrawal, which Saddam ignored, and even after the military operations began in order to cut the dithering and procrastination, there were signs of Soviet interruptions when the Soviets spoke of an Iraqi "response" to the U.S. ultimatum. The Soviets then continued to make statements, and are still making statements, casting doubt on the aims of the military operation and underscoring the Soviet desire to "prevent bloodshed and promote peace," even jointly with the United States—all this, to give Saddam's regime a chance to catch its breath and to use political maneuvering to win Arab popular support. [passage omitted]

There can be no doubt that, at crucial times, frankness with yourself and with friend and foe is the best and sincerest policy. Perhaps the Arabs could whisper in the ears of their Soviet friends that Iraq is an Arab trust, that it is a part of the Arab and Islamic history which cannot be cancelled or omitted, that modern Iraq is a strength for its nation which cannot be ignored or overlooked, and that the preservation of its territorial integrity, sovereignty, and independence, and of the Iraqi people's dignity in their current plight, are a main concern of the Arab states which Saddam antagonizes and fights—especially Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Syria. The Arabs understand, and are grateful for, the Soviet Union's guarantee of the Iraqi state, entity, and borders; but to extend its umbrella to the political regime and the protection of that regime from collapse now or in the future would be a flagrant violation of international law concerning respect for the will and right of independent sovereign nations to change or maintain their regimes. [passage omitted]

Gorbachev has respected the will of the East European nations to preserve their independent entities as states and to bring down their regimes, and, although glasnost is in jeopardy, he still gives the impression that he is about to draw a distinction between the regime and the state of the Soviet Union.

Does the Arab and non-Arab blood now being shed as a result of the ambitions, obstinacy, and arrogance of one person not give us the right to ask the Soviet Union what other country in the world has been governed by a revolution council for 23 consecutive years, with the legislative and executive powers monopolized by one man who alone makes the decisions on such matters as occupation, withdrawal, war, and peace and who alone controls the fate of millions of Iraqis in the towns and villages and on the front?

Just a polite question and a whisper in the ears of our Soviet friends.

'Aziz Makes Statement on Allied Troops' Presence*NC0103133491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1249 GMT 1 Mar 91*

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz has made the following statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY:

We learned today that despite the announcement of the cease-fire declared by the United States and which we observed immediately, there is a U.S. and Western military force made up of a number of tanks and infantry still in various areas linking al-Nasiriyah with al-Samawah and up to a point on the road south of al-Nasiriyah and environs. They are carrying out attacks incompatible with the cease-fire. The foreign minister said that due to poor communication, he was informed about this matter only this morning.

The aggressive forces had barbarically deployed in these areas during the aggression in a show of muscle by dropping troops from helicopters. But now, however, their numbers are larger than before the cease-fire.

The foreign minister emphasized that this presence is at odds with the idea of a cease-fire, in addition to it being a provocative action that we firmly reject. He stressed that this American force must leave our national territory immediately and stop all provocative acts.

The minister added that such behavior by the United States is evidence of bad faith and disrespect for declared stances and pledges. This is in addition to U.S. aircraft overflying parts of our territory. This behavior continued until this morning.

UN Envoy Details UNSC Debate on Cease-Fire*NC2802184191 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1610 GMT 28 Feb 91*

[Telephone interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, ambassador to the United Nations, in New York by George Tarif in Amman on 28 February—recorded]

[Text] [Tarif] Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's representative at the United Nations, what is the latest at the UN Security Council [UNSC] concerning a cease-fire resolution?

[Al-Anbari] The Security Council held a lengthy session yesterday. The session was closed; that is, nonmembers and the media were not allowed to attend. After many hours of consultations, the members welcomed the Iraqi foreign minister's letter, in which he expressed Iraq's readiness to accept implementation of Security Council Resolutions 662 and 674. But they also said that all Security Council resolutions are binding on all parties, and, consequently, they expected Iraq to accept the implementation of all Security Council resolutions on the Gulf crisis. They said that whenever Iraq expresses

its readiness to observe these resolutions, the Security Council will hold a session and pass a cease-fire resolution.

The Security Council was then informed of Iraq's readiness to implement all Security Council resolutions, especially in view of the fact that the other resolutions are virtually meaningless now. These resolutions deal with issues that surfaced at the beginning of the crisis, such as foreign citizens, diplomats, and other problems which have already been solved. These resolutions, consequently, are only symbolic and have no real importance. The president of the Security Council and the UN secretary general were informed that Iraq is ready to observe these resolutions. Then came U.S. President Bush's announcement that the United States had decided unilaterally to cease fire at midnight. The U.S. representative then requested the session be postponed until today so as to discuss the U.S. President's initiative and the way to pass a cease-fire resolution. Informal Security Council consultations will start behind closed doors, after which I expect the Security Council to hold an open or formal session to discuss the adoption of a cease-fire resolution in light of Iraq's position and the U.S. President's announcement.

As you know, Zimbabwe is the chairman of the Security Council's February session. Zimbabwe is a leading non-aligned country and was, in fact, conducting the consultations of the Council in a balanced, reasonable, and just manner. As of tomorrow, Austria will become the chairman. We do not know what resolutions will be passed today, but we hope that the Council, while still under Zimbabwe's chairmanship, will today adopt a cease-fire resolution, that is a resolution issued by the Security Council and not the unilateral decision of one country.

[Tarif] Thank you, Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari.

Delegation Head Says 'Immoral Means' Used in War*NC0103160291 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 1 Mar 91*

[Text] The head of the Iraqi delegation to the [UN] Human Rights Commission currently meeting in Geneva has said that the forces that aggressed against Iraq used all immoral means that conflict with basic human rights to implement their schemes in the region.

Addressing the commission yesterday, he said that these aggressive forces have destroyed Iraq's economic and industrial infrastructure, attacked civilian shelters and centers, used internationally banned napalm bombs, and violated the very UN Security Council resolution which they themselves drafted.

He added that the aggression against Iraq has exposed the true U.S. design, which is aimed at imposing U.S. political and economic influence on the world.

Bahraini Student Federation Cables Saddam

NC0103084491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
0800 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] The leader President Saddam Husayn has received a cable from the Bahraini National Students Federation pledging to his excellency that it will stand by Iraq in its jihad against the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist onslaught.

The federation said that Iraq's withdrawal decision has removed all masks and that no one can now search for a new one to use as a cover to continue the aggression against Iraq.

The federation emphasized that the stand made by the Iraqi people and Army against the armies of 30 countries for more than two months, and their steadfastness in the face of the preceding economic, political, and media siege are a legend for all times which Iraq has recorded in the Arab nation's history. It added that Bahrain's students share the Iraqi people's pride, victory, firm will, and legendary fighting against the evil ones. It announced that Iraq will remain the firm rock on which the enemies' conspiracies are smashed.

Jordanian Paper Sees 'No Signs' of Popular Revolt

JN0103094691 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
1 Mar 91 pp 1, 5

[Report by Lamis Andoni in Baghdad: "Iraqis Bitter Over 'Treachery of Arabs'"]

[Text] The Jubilant barrage of Kalashnikov shots fired in the air at day break told only part of the story of the sad city. Gloomy faces and paired eyes on the streets of Baghdad revealed the injured pride of a fighting nation.

Few hours after the U.S. declaration of a ceasefire, relief was tinged with sadness in Baghdad. "Of course we wanted peace, we are relieved that war will be over," said a young grocer. "But at what price..." he asked dropping his yes in unspeakable sorrow.

While Baghdad was the focus of the world attention on Thursday, its residents appeared to be totally absorbed in a world of their own—isolated from friends and foes. "At this minute my main concern is to get my three boys back home and alive..." said a merchant at the fresh produce souk in the popular area of al-Kazimiyah.

Big black banners with the names of soldiers and civilians who were killed in the war contrasted with the bright golden domes and minarets of the stunning al-Kazimiyah Shi'ite mosque.

A young attractive woman said that she was also waiting for her brother. "I am waiting," 25-year-old Maha said. But Maha, as many other Iraqis, is able to see beyond her personal sorrow which gives way to anger when the discussion shifts to Iraq. "We are betrayed... it was an Arab treachery," Maha said.

Residents of Baghdad say that they are determined to get over the "nightmare" of continuous heavy bombardment and daily hardship caused by the allied forces' destruction of power plants and the telecommunication system.

However, what Iraqis might not be able to overcome easily is their feeling of betrayal by other Arabs. "They left us alone to confront 28 countries," is the phrase which was repeated by many Iraqis Thursday.

The Iraqi feeling that they were abandoned by other Arabs and giving up Kuwait regardless of Iraq's historical claims to the oil rich emirate, has given way to frustration and a critical reassessment of virtually everything, they say.

There was a sense of silent anger on the streets of Baghdad, an anger which has not been vented yet. Iraqi officials say that they understand the muted anger and realise that it cannot be ignored. In general the Iraqi leadership, over the last two weeks, appeared to have redirected its priorities to accommodate the people as it became apparent that it had to rely basically on domestic support.

Sources close to the government say the leadership is aware of the traumatising experience that the Iraqis have been through and believes that once the Iraqis have recovered from the overwhelming sadness and bitterness, they will focus their attention on rebuilding their country.

But time, according to analysts, will remain an important factor in shaping the mood, especially that the U.S. might choose to pursue its political and economic pressures against Iraq.

Hours before the American declaration of a ceasefire the allied forces did not leave their objectives to Iraqi imagination. On Wednesday night Baghdad was the target of some of the heaviest bombardment since the beginning of the war.

The targets, however, were mostly symbols of the state. Journalists watched from the windows of al-Rashid [hotel] as allied missiles ripped through the Iraqi Ba'thist national command.

The thunderous blast came a few minutes after Baghdad Radio announced that President Saddam Husayn had presided over a meeting of the Ba'thist Party. The political message was clear to the Iraqi government and people. But Iraqi officials believe that the U.S. will not try to go beyond the objectives of the Security Council Resolutions—in the immediate future at least. They argue that the U.S. is using such tactics to pressure Iraq for more political concessions.

So far there are no signs that the U.S. tactics aimed at prompting a popular revolt against the leadership are effective; for regardless of how people might feel about the leadership's policies, the U.S. is here accused of deliberately trying to destroy the country.

"Our children will never forgive the U.S. for destroying our country," said a shopkeeper in al-Kazimiyah.

'Great Part' of War Machine Said Still Intact

JN0103101591 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
1 Mar 91 p 3

["Special" to JORDAN TIMES by Sa'idah Kilani]

[Text] Amman—"(The real) war has just begun. Our role was to implant the seed of goodness in the soul of every Arab and Muslim individual, and we have succeeded in doing that. The war has proved that this Arab Nation is capable of defeating any aggression no matter how strong and violent it is," said Muhammad al-Hayyali, head of the Professional Unions Complex in Iraq, who is on a temporary visit to Amman.

Mr. al-Hayyali expressed satisfaction and content over the current events and what he saw as the victory of the Iraqis and described this experience as evidence that the Arab Nation will "stay alive" and will not die; "especially if there exists a national and sincere leadership that shoulders the Arab yearning for unified national action to liberate our territories and preserve our dignity."

Mr. al-Hayyali confirmed that a solution to the Palestinian question, being a priority in Iraq's plans, will soon be found. "Certainly the Palestinian issue will be addressed. We hope that an international conference will be held, because this is what we aimed at in the first place and it was an essential part of our programme," he maintained.

However, the Iraqis were evidently disappointed with other Arab countries' stands during the war, according to Mr. al-Hayyali. "I put the blame on all Arab regimes. We have not experienced until now any real national stand with Iraq," he said.

"We had hopes that the Arab street would do more than just holding marches and giving speeches that have not served to achieve anything. There must have been more than this emotional and routine state of condemnation and denunciation; a state that should have changed into a full mobilisation of the Arab street and hitting foreign interests."

Inertia in the Arab populace was also attributed by Mr. al-Hayyali to the envy and jealousy of many leaders, as well as Western media's news blackout during the ground war. "Misinformation has succeeded in affecting Arab people psychologically," he said. "It was aimed at destroying and weakening the Arab spirit through its poisonous means and devious methods."

However, Iraq's military machine has not been destroyed and a great part of it remained intact, according to Mr. al-Hayyali. "The well-organised Iraqi withdrawal proves that," he explained. "The 110,000 raids on Iraq did not cause any retreat or fear on the part of the Iraqis. On the contrary, it reinforced their stand and made them more

committed to national principles and morals in defending the castle of Arabism," he stressed.

"Saddam is a man who does not fear anything and who has faith in national causes," Mr. al-Hayyali said. "He knows no defeat."

Arabian Peninsula Front Expresses Support

NC2802133891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT
28 Feb 91

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Feb (INA)—The National and Pan-Arab Front in the Arabian Peninsula has stressed that history will record with illuminated letters the courageous stand of the great army of Iraq, which has given the most brilliant examples of sacrifice with its epic and legendary fight for principles and values.

In a cable sent to leader President Saddam Husayn, the front said: O struggler President, you supported right against wrong when you responded with all principles to the 8 August call and buried the lowly imperialist plot of the Croesuses [Kuwaiti rulers], who wanted to do harm to Iraq.

The cable added: The aggressive war against Iraq has proved that the United States and its allies wanted to undermine Iraq's unity and to destroy its military power and scientific and cultural achievements which your leadership has harnessed in order to retrieve Palestine from its usurpers.

The front stressed its pledge to continue the struggle to expel the imperialist and Zionist invaders from all the lands of the Arabs.

Egyptian, Palestinian Demonstrations Noted

NC2802183891 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] For the fourth consecutive day, thousands of students staged mammoth demonstrations at Cairo University today. They were protesting the aggression of the United States and its allies against Iraq. Police of the Egyptian regime attacked the students, firing rubber bullets and tear gas bombs at them as they were going out onto nearby streets. The demonstrators hurled stones at the police, and, according to eyewitnesses, five people were martyred in the clashes. Other demonstrations were staged at the universities of al-Mansurah, Alexandria, and Asyut.

Meanwhile, thousands of Palestinians have demonstrated at 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp near Sidon. They chanted pro-Iraq slogans, saluted Iraq's heroic confrontation of the sinful aggressive states, and condemned the position of the traitor Arab regimes that sided with the infidel foreigners against Arab and Muslim Iraq.

Student Confederation Salutes Egyptians

NC2802201791 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] The national confederation of Iraq's students and youth values the honorable, heroic, and pan-Arab position of the students and youths of Egypt of Arabism, who expressed solidarity with Iraq in its struggle against the forces of evil, aggression, and tyranny. In a message of pride sent today to the students and youth of Egypt, the Iraqi confederation said: Your mammoth demonstrations and the virtuous blood spilled constitute a document of pride and glory for the Egypt we know. The people of Egypt will never abandon their pan-Arab duty of defending Arab right and truly upholding the values of belief and justice.

The confederation said Iraq's students, youth, and all its struggling masses salute with respect and appreciation the students and youth of Egypt, whose resounding voice at the Universities of Cairo, 'Ayn Shams, al-Mansurah, and other universities, institutes, and schools clearly indicates that all the acts of traitors, agents, and hirelings have failed to lessen the determination of the people of Egypt to continue their principled struggle in defense of Arab issues against the tentacles of the U.S.-Zionist octopus.

Baghdad Said 'Calm,' Citizens Returning Home

LD2802170191 Tehran IRIB Television Network
in Persian 1600 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Report from Baghdad by unidentified correspondent]

[Text] With the declaration of a cease-fire in the Persian Gulf war after 45 days of continual bombardment and missile attacks, Baghdad was calm today, and only sporadic shots were fired in the air as a sign of cheer for the cessation of the air raids. Most shops and trade centers have resumed business since this morning, and the inhabitants of Baghdad are doing their shopping. Most of the 4 million inhabitants of Baghdad—who fled to nearby towns and villages at the outbreak of the war to be safe from the air raids—began returning to their homes at noon today. Roads leading to Baghdad were full of people going to Baghdad by any means possible, happy about the cease-fire.

I should add that Baghdad suffered its heaviest air raid last night: From 1800 yesterday, until dawn today, at least 10 big explosions were heard.

Reports Cited on 'Fiercest' Tank Battle

NC0103082991 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
0800 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] Reports from various sources say that U.S. President George Bush's decision to stop the fighting by the coalition forces was a result of heavy tank battles that raged with the Iraqi force described as the fiercest battle since World War II. All the paratroopers dropped behind

the Iraqi defensive lines at the approaches to the Dhi Qar Governorate, southern Iraq, were wiped out after all the communication lines were cut between the coalition forces and the U.S. forces command in the Dhi Qar region.

AP has reported that U.S. and British armored units were seen fleeing from southern Iraq toward the Gulf the night before last. The agency said that the U.S. 7th Armored Division was besieged by Iraq's Republican Guard and that one of the fiercest tank battles took place between Iraqi and coalition forces.

According to Western military sources, combat units of the British 1st Armored Division withdrew to Kuwait to join the coalition forces there.

Baghdad Radio Talks, Commentaries on Situation

Nation 'Stronger' After Each Aggression

NC0103082491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
0700 GMT Mar 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Iraq's strength has solid historical, and cultural roots that go back more than 6,000 years. Civilization started here, in Mesopotamia. Iraq's steadfastness in this duel has proved that a country with such greatness, strength, and cohesiveness cannot in any way be undermined by any brute force in the world, no matter how much forces of infidelity and tyranny it assembles. Each time Iraq comes under aggression or is subject to a conspiracy, Iraq emerges stronger than before. This is a fact that enemies know before the friends do, and it is a part of Iraq's formation and its living, humane, and cultural mechanism. It is the structure of Iraq and its evermore superior potential. This Iraqi strength has become an Iraqi method that leader Saddam Husayn has applied to the correct course to serve the humane and independent decision of our people, our Arab and Islamic nations, and the free people in the world.

Iraqi strength has stood as a means of human and international independence in defense of right and freedom in the face of the torrent of U.S. hegemony over the world. Washington wanted the earth to be a huge market for its agents to move about to loot the people's wealth and control their destinies. Great Iraq adopted a principled and moral position in the face of this U.S. torrent and succeeded in exposing and stripping it before the people of the world, despite all the sacrifices it entailed. This success has a great historic value for the future. Our Armed Forces' action in this great duel was one that suits Iraq's history and cultural glory, and befits its strong fighters. Iraq has triumphed by the power of right, faith, and manhood, and aborted a major conspiracy that had targeted its very existence.

Nation Can Rebuild in 'Record Time'

NC0103092891 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
0747 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] No country in the world has been subjected to what Iraq has been subjected to. This small peaceful country faced 30 countries. Some of them were superpowers with huge military, scientific, and technological resources, and incredible amounts of money and huge [word indistinct] resources placed at their disposal. Their military campaign was accompanied by a comprehensive and extensive psychological war and unlimited media campaigns.

Apart from this, it was accompanied by an oppressive economic siege which banned food, medicine, and all other necessities of life, and a ban on Iraqi oil exports, the main Iraqi product. What if it had not been Iraq the target of this criminal war? How would the targeted country have behaved? Would it have been able to display such steadfastness, stop the sly conspiracy at this stage, and prevent the agents from realizing the ultimate victory they were hoping to?

Iraq, who confronted, fought, persevered, and triumphed, would not have been able to crown its sacrifices with this brilliant achievement had it not been the country of civilization which taught humanity the first letter in the book of writing and the first law in the book of legislation; had Iraq not been the heir of the mighty Abbasid era and the bearer of its achievements in knowledge and science; had Iraq not been in the age of struggler leader Saddam Husayn—the age of growth, great development, industrial progress, [words indistinct], and constructive military industrialization; and finally, had Iraq not been the homeland of this creative and inventive people with initiative and generosity, a history in arts and literature, jihad in times of war and peace, perseverance over difficulties and sacrifice, and eternal aspirations to move forward. Yes. Had it not been Iraq, then it could not have been what its sons wanted it to be, what the nation sees it as, and what the whole of humanity expects from it.

Since Iraq is like this, it deserves to exist, live, and continue. Because it is like this, it is able to rebuild what the enemies destroyed, construct in record time what the aggressors ruined, and once again confirm the power of these people and their ability to sacrifice over and over again.

Everything can be rebuilt and renewed so long as belief lives in the hearts, victory exists in the spirit, and determination is entrenched in the conscience, mind, and heart.

Our people are now rising under their struggling and believing leader Saddam Husayn and under the protection of their heroic Armed Forces. It is rising in every field and realm under God's care and the blessing of the believers.

Israeli 'Formula' Said Ended

NC0103100791 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
0851 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] O Iraq, you are great. They think that you will yield to them. You responded to their impudence and ferocity with the biggest "No" history has ever known. Iraq retorted with its faith, men, and power, the power of right. O Iraq, you are great. Despite the fact that your population is only 18 million and despite your well known size, your reply was that of hundreds of millions. You have borne what your size many times over could not have done. You have borne all that they prepared to inflict a huge harm that would have made an entire continent sink. You were a giant continent, or rather, the entire world.

O Iraq, you are great. Note that the superpower threatened you and that Atlanticists and non-Atlanticists (?assisted) it. The traitors opened waterways, airspace, and gates to this superpower. In addition to its own, America (?struck) with the armies of 30 countries. Did America do all this because you [words indistinct], and because you are an outcry that flashed [words indistinct], a voice in the wilderness where no one could hear; you were a paper tiger, a daydream? Or because America knew what you are, what you want, that you are hard, the challenge, the country that builds, supports right, good, the poor, and virtue [words indistinct].

O Iraq, you are great, note how you put an end to the abnormal formula that the Arabs have been struck with since 1948. This formula is Tel Aviv, which is stronger than all Arabs combined and which is supposed to remain the strongest. The masters of the [words indistinct] the mentors of the Zionist plan relied on Tel Aviv to confront any Arab who seeks to emerge from the plan and the formula. You, Iraq, refused and achieved balance and even preponderance. Thus, the big players emerged with the hysteria of the conceited whose minds cannot tolerate any disturbance even from the big powers according to their standards, to confront an Arab power, which in their view and specifications was small even if it confronted them with all the Arabs behind it. One ended the abnormal formula and shook the [words indistinct] to which they have grown used since the end of World War II, and even shook [words indistinct] in which the Arabs have slumbered dozens of years. Notice how you ended the (?picture) and they emerged from their dens and [words indistinct]. O Iraq, they threatened you but you were not frightened nor did you submit. They opened fire and you stormed in defiance and in faith, and broke all attempts at penetration and outflanking, and made your enemies retreat with remnants of (?dismembered bodies). [words indistinct]

O Iraq, you are (?sticking) to your faith and principles, and with men's resolve you are a giant. They have been disappointed [words indistinct] you are ascending to

glory and those who committed crimes are descending to disgrace. You are Iraq. Does it not suffice us that you are Iraq?

Nation Said 'United' Behind Leadership

NC0103115891 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1028 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers, glorious Iraqis, free Arabs; O strugglers in the eastern and western reaches of the world. Iraq has emerged from this great historic contest—in its current stage—proud and united behind its inspired and historic leadership, the leadership of the mujahid Saddam Husayn. It is specifically this that has kept the enemies' dismay in their hearts.

When they schemed to strike at Iraq and confound the principles, methods, and legitimate ambitions of the Arab nation and the Third World's poor and oppressed nations, with their aggression they wanted to undermine Iraq and destroy its independent policy, its pioneer revolution, and the model it presented to the Arab nation and all the world's peoples in construction, progress, the mastery of science and technology, and the faith-inspired power that can repulse tyrannical force and stop it in its tracks.

Yes, the Iraqis triumphed in this contest with their faith, sacrifices, and jihad, and the feats of their Armed Forces. They held steadfast with historic pride against the most tyrannical and vicious onslaught waged against a nation of the world. Future generations will remember this for them. These heroic Iraqis and their historic and sincere leadership can take the credit not only for unmasking the true and ugly face of U.S. imperialism, its allies, the traitors who belong to it, and its aggressor tool, the Zionist entity, but also for paving the way to all nations to rise in a manner that will guarantee the preservation of their dignity, independence, and use of their own wealth. This alone is a great [words indistinct] undoubted victory.

The free world, which seeks a dignified life, has the right to be proud of this Iraq, with its mujahid people, its exceptional leader Saddam Husayn, and its heroic Army, when it examines the significance of the Iraqi stand, noble [word indistinct], and the meaning of its principles versus the tyrants of Zionism and U.S. imperialism and the greatest forces of aggression in history.

Yes, this is the primary outcome with such profound significance for the future represented by this Iraqi achievement for the good of the Arab nation, the Muslims, and the world's oppressed people.

Cease-Fire Decision Viewed

NC0103132191 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] Arab and international news agencies report that Bush's cease-fire decision for his U.S. forces and the

foreign forces allied with him came unilaterally only a few hours after the decision made by the allied aggressor states at the Security Council rejecting the Iraqi initiative for a withdrawal from Kuwait and after his rejection of this initiative. Correspondents note that the cease-fire decision came as a result of the military operations carried out by the Iraqi forces which culminated in the expulsion of the aggressor forces from the position to which they had infiltrated west of the Euphrates adjacent to the southern desert. But the rejection by the representatives of the aggressor states came before the battle was decisively settled.

The agencies point to the statement by White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater that Bush's decision was made after contacting General Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of the U.S. forces in the region. In his statement, Fitzwater said that Bush had two concerns when he made the cease-fire decision. The first was to stop the bloodshed, a matter clearly indicating the painful blows dealt by the fighters of the Republican Guards to the ranks of the enemy forces, particularly the U.S. forces during their aggression against western and southern Iraq. The second concern was his desire to tell the Americans that the U.S. forces would return to the United States though the Iraqi forces had proven that they could continue the fighting for a long time, whereas Bush had told Americans that the war would be short and decisive.

Talk Says U.S. 'Aura' Demolished

NC2802154591 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1210 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Victorious redeemers, grandchildren of the message, and descendents of glory: Nothing can be greater than the glory with which you have wrapped up your historic duel. Nothing can compare with the achievement of taking on the most pervasive, rancorous, and barbaric aggression. You have stood up to 30 nations led by the one superpower and emerged with laurels of victory and pride. You have won hearts and minds with the fragrance of your acts of heroism, which waft across all continents. Eyes will remain transfixed with admiration for your valiant stand. Your heroic stand marks a historic turning point for Arab and Islamic generations. It has created new spirit and values, and its impact will be felt for many centuries to come. The fact that the Iraqis have engaged 30 nations, including three major powers, and held their ground for their principles, religion, honor, and independence, will go down in history.

Your victory and steadfastness have illuminated the path of jihad for believers, opened the doors to the future wide before them, and instilled hope in the hearts yearning for freedom and independence. Iraq has succeeded in demolishing the aura of the United States—the empire of evil, terror, and aggression. Iraq has punched

a hole in the myth of American superiority and rubbed the nose of the United States in the dust.

While the cost of the war and standing up to the United States and its allies was heavy enough, capitulation to it, God forbid, would have cost even more. Our victory has been attained at a high price as has the preservation of our sovereignty and dignity, which is all the more reason why we should guard our achievements and reinforce our victory and stay the course of our principled, unchanging line.

The Iraqis have approached this huge conspiracy with all the firmness they could muster, rooting out agency, aggression, and treachery. They have whipped up a wave of opposition to all types of injustice, arrogance, exploitation, and corruption that has reverberated throughout the world. Today, Iraq stands tall with its believing people and valiant Army and will continue on the same path of glory and faith with even greater resolve.

'Many Lessons' Taught to Allies

NC2802145891 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1355 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brother strugglers, when your sons in the Republican Guard and in all the militant corps of your valiant Army put the final touches on the defeat of the U.S. forces who tried their luck in entering Iraqi territory, they left an indelible mark in the memory of Bush and the entire alliance of cowards who sought to spoil the land of Mesopotamia.

This achievement was the fitting climax which forced Bush to make his decision to stop the aggression against Iraq after he saw how the engagement between his forces and the Iraqi Army was not as easy as they had imagined. This has an important meaning. The cowards' target was not the land of Kuwait and the restoration of legitimacy and of the disgraceful rulers. They were targeting Iraq's presence and territory, as well as the Iraqi Army, which in terms of capability and combat action threatens their designs and their agent Israeli entity in Palestine.

Brothers, this is another of the many lessons your heroic Army taught the alliance of rogues and conspirators against your country. The al-Nasiriyah squares and heroic Basra, the mother of all towns, will remain a witness to the shame that the Iraqis have inflicted on their cowardly ranks when they dared to enter the Iraqi land which only honest and free men can enter.

Baghdad's 'Very Clear' Victory Stressed

NC2802143491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1305 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: With unprecedented strength, the heroic Iraqis confronted the evil plot which

war criminal Bush, his allies, and agents, hatched and tried to implement against great Iraq, the steadfast bastion of the Arabs and Muslims. The plot embraced all the hatred of imperialism, Zionism, and reaction against our Arab nation and against lofty Iraq. Over 30 states, including the biggest imperialist states led by the United States, gathered to implement this plot. These aggressive forces mobilized all their armies, weapons, and technological prowess, whipped up their media services, and used all their lies, hypocrisy, and funds. However, the plot did not succeed and will not succeed.

The Iraqis smashed the plot by Bush, his aides, and his servants. The Iraqis stood fast in a legendary manner despite being targeted by over 100,000 air sorties, during which the aggressors dropped hundreds of thousands of bombs and rockets on Iraqi towns, villages, scientific, cultural, and economic installations, places of worship, and residential areas.

Bush's plot targeted all Iraq. However, the heroic Iraqis were lying in wait for him, his agents, and his servants. They buried the plot because they caught its strings from the beginning, knew its directions, and realized its objectives before 2 August. The dimensions of this plot became clear after 2 August. These dimensions became clearer when war criminal Bush decided to carry out his wide-scale aggression on the night of 16 January.

Iraq's victory today is very clear. The Iraqis foiled the plot, nipped it in the bud, and prevented it from achieving its objectives. The Iraqi victory is clear because all the armies of the aggression failed to enter Kuwait before our heroic forces withdrew from it. The Iraqi victory is clear in the steadfastness of this great Iraq and the cohesion of its sons and heroic armed forces. The Iraqi victory is clear in Iraq's noncompliance [adam istijabat] with the conditions set by Bush, his aides, and his servants, in the continuation of its independent course, and in its defense of its pan-Arab and national issues. Iraq's victory is clear in its baring of the agents and traitors, who licked the boots of the Americans to retain their shaken seats. The Iraqi victory is clear in this confrontation which has occurred in the Arab and Islamic worlds between the defenders of freedom, honor, and sanctities and the advocates of jihad for God on one hand and the enemies of God and the homeland, who are the infidels, debauchers, and slaves of the dollar, on the other. The Iraqi victory is clear because the Palestinian issue has been placed at the forefront of world events after remaining deliberately forgotten and covered in dust by the Imperialists and Zionists for 40 years. During this period the Palestinian people have been suffering the worst forms of repression, displacement, starvation, humiliation, and oppression.

The Iraqi victory in this showdown is very clear. All the propaganda means will not benefit Bush and his aides, who are trying to belittle our victory and hide it from the hearts of the Arab and Muslim believers and the free men of the world.

Destruction of 'Forces of Invasion' Urged

NC2702184391 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1646 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] O great people, what do the amirs of illusion and aggression think about Iraq? What were they thinking about when they planned to desecrate the land of Iraq by sending their forces to the outskirts of Dhi Qar? It seems at first that self-conceit and arrogance have gripped them to the point where they cannot see reality or understand the lessons and examples of ancient and modern history.

Nay, what is certain now is that the savage ravens they possess have tempted them to continue the aggression against Iraq and to occupy a part of its territory in an attempt to harm the dignity and pride of its struggling people and to pressure them for further extortion.

Disregarding history and its lessons and making light of peoples are traditions similar to the ones we observed from the hated British and French colonialism in their dealings with the peoples of the world in Asia, Africa, and the rest of the world and from Zionism in its dealings with the Palestinian people and the Arab nation in Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, and other Arab states.

The Americans, together with the leaders of old colonialism—Britain, France, Italy, and world Zionism—have forgotten that the desecration of Iraq's territory is tantamount to greater imperialist involvement and the start of a new stage of intervention totally unrelated to the issue of Kuwait in any way. This new stage will prove to the world and to those who cooperated with the invaders out of good intentions that America is seeking to achieve an objective other than [the liberation of] Kuwait. It is seeking to achieve total hegemony in the region and to frustrate any liberation attempt by any people to reject hegemony. As a key part of this objective, it is seeking to destroy Iraq as an economic and political power. With the completion of Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, the invasion of Iraqi territory has begun. How should we interpret this? They are completely reversing the wheel of history.

O heroic Iraqis, makers of the ancient and modern history: The imperialists want our land, wealth, and freedom, and they want to harm our dignity and honor. The only way to defeat them is to destroy the forces of invasion; draw inspiration from the heroism of the people in Dhi Qar, al-Qadisiyah, al-Yarmuk, the 1920 and the May 1941 Revolutions, the July 1958 and 1968 Revolutions, Suez, Algeria, and Palestine; and proceed ahead, like all other peace- and freedom-loving peoples, on the path to freedom, dignity, and victory. Tomorrow is not far off for those waiting for it.

Editorial Condemns Bush, 'Destructive Scheme'

NC0103111191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0956 GMT
1 Mar 91

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Mar (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH says that the insistence of Bush's criminal administration on continuing the bestial war against Iraq is one of the features that confirmed the reality of his intentions and for which he employed false pretexts and excuses to realize the Zionist goal in weakening great Iraq.

The paper adds that unequivocal evidence of this rests in his false claims and lies that he is abiding by international legitimacy, through which this dirty criminal used all methods to flout the Security Council, United Nations, and international traditions and norms. Further, he showed no regard for world opinion and for those who advocated a halt to the war, only to carry out his treacherous aggression which only demonstrates cowardice and immense hatred.

In today's editorial, AL-QADISIYAH emphasizes that all this proves one of Bush's abortive practices to peddle his old plot and destructive scheme against Iraq, which reiterated its awakening and capability to confront the challenges facing the Arab nation and its strength, which Iraq represents.

The paper goes on to stress that the steadfastness of the heroic sons of our armed forces has greatly helped abort this plot and slaughter those who sought to harm Iraq. It says: Despite all his attempts and insinuations about military capabilities, Rambo-like movements, and deception and falsehood, he found no cause to continue the war, particularly since his dead and those of the allied forces have reached thousands, prompting them to conceal the figure. He stopped the war out of fear that the number of his dead might increase following the failure of all the acrobatic movements, landing operations, and infiltration attempts which were confronted by men who hunted Bush's pigs one after another.

AL-QADISIYAH goes on to say that the corroborating evidence is the violent and fierce confrontation waged by the heroic Republican Guard against the armored forces of evil which attempted to desecrate Iraqi land, as well as the grave losses inflicted on them. The paper says that these grave losses caused Bush to fear for the fate of his aggressive forces and prompted him to agree to a cease-fire.

The paper indicates that Iraqis underscored during this battle that Bush's mean objective of destroying Iraq and making it a docile tool in the hands of the White House is sheer delusion nursed by Bush's putrid mentality.

The paper says: The battle has confirmed that the Iraqis fought honorably, courageously, and proudly, illustrating the most sublime meaning of Iraqi soldiery. In addition, the battle has shown that the Iraqis caused Bush's failed delusion to evaporate into thin air when he was rendered incapable of undermining Iraq's sovereignty and dignity. The future, when the dust of the

battle completely clears, might reveal more facts about what has befallen this coward's armies.

The paper points out that our Armed Forces in general and our Republican Guard in particular have shown that the chapters of the battle were conducted efficiently, heroically, and in a manner that will safeguard for our heroic Army their high reputation and well-known military traditions.

AL-QADISIYAH adds: Thanks to the distinguished military accomplishments achieved, the Iraqi Armed Forces, under President Saddam Husayn, will remain vigilant and alert to defend the homeland and its sovereignty and dignity. They will remain true to their principles and values. Likewise, they will remain the mujahid vanguards of the nation in any future duel with the enemies.

The paper goes on to say that Iraq will always remain a symbol of pride not only to the Arabs, but also to all faithful people who are struggling to achieve freedom and independence. Iraq will remain an unmistakable reality that will lend Arab history a new significance in confronting imperialism and Zionism, the paper concludes.

'Informed Sources' See Imminent Military Coup

PM0103124691 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT
AL-DUWALI in Arabic 28 Feb 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Professional Military Establishment Separates From Political System; Al-Juburi Alternative To Saddam"]

[Text] Washington, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Informed sources here are talking about growing signs of an imminent military coup in Iraq. Reports say that a major split has started to emerge in relations between the professional military establishment in Iraq and the political leadership. The professional military establishment holds Saddam Husayn personally responsible for the confusion that led to the Iraqi Army's humiliation. The sources say that the decision for the disorganized retreat has been interpreted by the military commanders as an attempt by Saddam Husayn to get rid of his outraged army, which he abandoned in the desert for many months without supplies.

The sources noted that the attempt by some Republican Guard divisions to withdraw and to move into Baghdad is an attempt by Saddam Husayn to gather the forces loyal to him in anticipation of a military coup. The sources say that two Republican Guard divisions—the al-Madinah and the Hammurabi Divisions—are trying to return to Baghdad, but in vain. Saddam Husayn has managed to bring back another division stationed on the Turkish border. It actually returned to Baghdad a few days ago.

Attention is now focused on Defense Minister Sa'd 'Abbas Tu'mah al-Juburi, a professional military man

whose loyalty has always been to the military establishment, in contrast to the chief of staff, who comes from the Republican Guard establishment and is loyal to Saddam Husayn.

The sources say that al-Juburi enjoys the confidence of what is left of the professional military establishment. His recent stances have been characterized by bitter criticism of the process of running the war. Professional military men are trying to create an alliance with some of the political symbols that have not played an influential role in Saddam Husayn's political decisions. One of the possible allies is Sa'dun Hammadi, who reportedly enjoys Iran's support and against whom there is no red light from the international coalition.

The sources believe that the political future of Saddam Husayn's regime is now numbered in days, if not hours.

LE MONDE: Saddam Seeks Asylum in Algeria

AL0103163091 Paris AFP in English 1543 GMT
1 Mar 91

[Text] Paris, March 1 (AFP)—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn is about to step down or be ousted and will probably seek exile in Algeria, the French daily LE MONDE said Friday, quoting informed Algerian sources.

Algerian leaders had sought assurances from the anti-Iraq coalition that no action would be taken against Saddam Husayn if he fled to a foreign country, and the allies had agreed, the authoritative newspaper said.

However, close advisers to the Iraqi leader were trying to persuade him to remain in power, LE MONDE said.

Well-informed Algerian sources said Mr. Husayn might resign and seek exile within the next few days.

The Iraqi leader's future was raised during initial contacts between U.S. and Iraqi officials to work out a ceasefire accord, and delicate negotiations were now under way on the sidelines of "post-negotiations" on Iraq's pledge to meet U.N. Security Council resolutions, the report said.

On Wednesday night [27 February], a few hours before the allied forces announced they had agreed to a ceasefire, Saddam Husayn bitter at having been "dropped", as he saw it, by the Soviet Union, made enquiries to see if Algeria would grant him political asylum.

Algiers gave its "agreement a few hours later", on condition his successors in Iraq went along with the arrangement and that the allies guaranteed not to prosecute Mr. Husayn for war crimes.

The allies agreed to this condition "according to Algiers", the newspaper said.

LE MONDE said there were rumours in Algiers that Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, also deputy prime minister, was tipped to head a transition government

"which could take office after the 48-hour period laid down by the Americans officially to work out conditions for a permanent ceasefire".

Other rumours said Iraqi military officials in favour of setting up "a strong leadership capable of coping with possible unrest" were being seen as more likely to take over in Baghdad.

However hangers-on, such as Mr. Husayn's cousins and Ba'ath party officials, "conscious that their lives depended on his remaining in power," were trying to persuade him not to step down, LE MONDE said.

'Secret Report' Says Saddam Told To Step Down

PM0103164091 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT
AL-DUWALI in Arabic 1 Mar 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Senior Officers Ordered Saddam To Step Down"]

[Text] Baghdad SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Iraqi cities yesterday demonstrated against Saddam Husayn. The masses in Baghdad, al-Najaf, Ba'qubah, and Mosul staged spontaneous demonstrations calling for the downfall of the defeated tyrant and hailing the "Iraqi Army's sacrifices." A secret report from Baghdad, a copy of which has been obtained by SAWT AL-KUWAYT, says that Saddam Husayn's capitulation to international law was carried out at the request of high-ranking Iraqi Army officers and that this request was made at a secret meeting between these leaders and Saddam Husayn at an air base on the outskirts of al-Nasiriyah city. It was attended by Mahir 'Abd-al-Rashid, former commander of the Republican Guard, and a number of senior officers dismissed by Saddam after the Iraq-Iran war. These military commanders prevented the "special forces" that arrived before Saddam from entering the base. The report adds that the meeting was stormy and that one officer screamed at Saddam: "Had it not been for our fear for Iraq, we would not have left you alive." The report adds that the high-ranking military leaders stated their viewpoint as follows: Defeat is inevitable and the political leadership must pay the price. Instead of letting others make the choice, it is better for us to choose an alternative leadership in order to safeguard Iraq's territorial integrity.

The report says that at the end of the meeting an agreement was reached on Iraq's acceptance of all the Security Council resolutions, including the resolution concerning war reparations, and the condition of a cease-fire, provided that the cease-fire is followed by Saddam Husayn's announcement within two weeks that he would step down from power and transfer the leadership to a military council comprising three officers. These were named from among the participants. This was on condition that the military council would guarantee the safety of Saddam Husayn and his family. In Baghdad yesterday there were reports of armed clashes in a number of Iraqi cities including Mosul, while

Baghdad radio, in a rare initiative, called on the head of the Iraqi regime to "stand fast in this predicament."

Exiled General Asks for POW's To Topple Saddam

LD2802223891 Hamburg DPA in German 2201 GMT
28 Feb 91

[Excerpts] Riyadh (DPA)—A former commander in chief of the Iraqi Army today offered to head a military movement to topple head of state Saddam Husayn. Lieutenant General Ibrahim al-Dawud asked U.S. President George Bush and other commanders in chief of the allied forces to place the estimated 150,000 Iraqi prisoners of war under his command "so that I can invade Iraq and topple Saddam." "If the leaders of the Iraqi Army do not rise up to drive Saddam out of office, then I am prepared to take on this mission," the 58-year-old said in an interview with DPA in the Saudi Arabian capital, Riyadh, where he has lived for over 20 years. [passage omitted]

In the interview, the Iraqi politician in exile expressed his joy at the liberation of Kuwait and said that the military victory over Saddam's army by allied troops was not enough to restore peace and stability to the Gulf region. He called for the toppling of the Iraqi head of state as the only means of bringing peace to the region. "Saddam must go, and a democratic government should be set up which would supervise free elections together with the United Nations," al-Dawud suggested. [passage omitted] Asked to describe Saddam's character, al-Dawud said: "Saddam is a complete liar who does not believe in facts. He lies like mad. He promises much but delivers nothing. He betrays the truth. He does not keep to any religious principles." The Iraqi head of state had only agreed to the unconditional withdrawal "to save his skin."

Ibrahim al-Dawud does not believe that the many Iraqi opposition groups can cooperate. In his estimation, 60 percent of them are working for Saddam's secret service. "The Iraqi opposition is divided because it has been infiltrated by Saddam's people," al-Dawud said, and at the same time spoke against setting up a government in exile. "Such a government would be the prelude for the partitioning of Iraq," he predicted. However, political observers suspect that al-Dawud might play a key role in opposition plans to depose Saddam.

Islamists Call On Army To 'Topple' Saddam

LD2802180391 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Iraq
in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Communique from the Islamic Opposition in Iraq—date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful: In the law of equality, there is saving of life to you. O ye men of understanding, that ye may restrain yourselves. [Koranic verse] Some agent-regimes and

some quarters, which are aliens to Islamic action, are trying to save the tyrant Saddam and keep him in power, which he usurped in Iraq.

They express their alleged concern for the Iraqi people and pretend to show regret over the destruction that befell them. In reality, these quarters are expressing a false concern and are practicing deceit and falsehood. They are defending their regimes, positions, and interests, which they have linked to the tyrant—either in his existence or his death—now that his sting has been broken. He has suffered a dismal military defeat, and his downfall and the collapse of his regime have become very near and imminent.

The salvation of the Iraqi people from his tyranny has become closer, God willing.

While we salute our brave Iraqi people and appreciate with respect their heroic fighting and their confrontation against the tyranny and their long years of suffering in all pride and haughtiness, the whole world was siding with the tyrant, was fooled by him, and was ignorant of his reality.

While we appeal to the Iraqi Army to take advantage of this opportunity to declare a revolution against the tyrant, to topple him and take revenge from him for the sake of its dignity and the dignity of people who have been exhausted by the criminal policies of the tyrant; while we frankly announce that toppling the despotic

regime of Saddam is a legitimate duty and an Islamic ordinance, and that to observe a truce with him is a great sin, that to keep him as a ruler without punishment will keep Iraq tyrannized, oppressed, and suppressed by him and will encourage the likes of him—the ones who gamble with and risk the destinies of their peoples to follow his style of crime, oppression, destruction, and violation of human rights.

We call upon those who crow for and mourn Saddam through their shedding of false tears for the Iraqi people and some who trade in Islam who will be orphaned by Saddam following his imminent downfall, God willing, to refrain from their deceit, charlatanism, and false tears for the Iraqi people, who will be in the best of conditions the day they emancipate themselves from the tyrant.

We warn them against the wrath of God and the strength of the people and that what happened rightly and duly to Saddam will happen to them for their crimes, for collaborating with the tyrant in his crimes, and for siding with him during his crimes and oppression at the expense of their peoples and at the expense of the tyrannized Iraqi people. God will punish the wrongdoers; however, so many people are not aware of this fact.

Signed: Shaykh Ali Abd al-Aziz, deputy general-leader of the Islamic Movement in Kurdistan, Iraq; Muhammad al-'Alusi; Fulayyih al-Samurra'i; Muhammad Tawfiq al-Badri; Fuad al-'Ani; 'Ihsan al-Khaffaf; Ali Jasim al-Shammari; Husayn al-Rikabi; Ahmad al-Turk.

Levi Presents Cease-Fire Arrangements

TA2802165791 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1625 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman—live]

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi today sent a message to the foreign ministers of the anti-Iraqi coalition, apparently excluding the Arab countries, in which he details Israel's demands about the cease-fire arrangements.

The very existence of a potential threat to Israel will provoke waves of nationalism against it and will force Israel to safeguard its security, the foreign minister says in his message. Therefore, Levi adds, Israel expects from the allies that the following conditions be included in the security arrangements:

1. The immediate elimination of the missiles and the launchers in western Iraq under the supervision of the allies.
2. The elimination of Iraq's chemical and biological weapons and the potential to develop them.
3. An absolute ban on Iraq's acquiring know-how, technology, equipment, and material for the production of weapons of mass destruction.
4. That Iraq's conventional arsenal be regulated by an agreed-upon entity and be subject to the supervision of the allies and the affected countries.
5. That Iraq cease its threats against Israel and undertake not to initiate an attack on Israel.

This message should be seen in the context of Israel's intensive efforts to prevent Iraq from renewing the threat against Israel when the fighting is over.

Considers Demands 'Just'

TA2802183891 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1625 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by political correspondent Arye Golan—live]

[Text] [Golan] Good evening, Mr. Levi.

[Levi] Good evening, Arye.

[Golan] Do our five demands regarding the cease-fire arrangements, which look very just to us, stand a chance of being accepted by the allies? Can they become an item on the agenda of the negotiations with Iraq?

[Levi] Clearly, we must take action and not just talk. We consider those clauses and conditions just. Therefore, through my office, Israel has launched such an offensive so that the allies are aware of Israel's concerns and of what might happen if those conditions are not met. Clearly, they are taking steps to secure their achievements in the south—that is, in everything pertaining to

Kuwait and the countries in the Arabian peninsula: Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar. There is an area that poses a threat to Israel, however, the area from which missiles were fired at Israel. The allied forces did not get to that area, and a renewed threat can be posed to Israel from there. Israel will then have to do its duty and defend its citizens. Therefore, it cannot be said that the war is over when the southern part is secure, but only when conditions safeguarding stability in the Middle East and preventing Iraq from once again posing a threat are met. The northwestern part must be taken into consideration, because it is the source of the threat to Israel.

I have approached all the foreign ministers of the coalition so that those points are put on the negotiating table. I have also approached others. We agreed in earlier contacts with German Foreign Minister Genscher that he would raise the matter today in his talks with the U.S. Administration and at the UN Security Council as a German demand. We will not sit and do nothing. We will pursue the action that we started today. I gave a lot of thought to the intensity of the message, which I think is justified, and we will lead this process.

[Golan] Mr. Foreign Minister, this issue will not only come up in Genscher's talks in Washington, but also in the talks Secretary of State Baker will conduct here next week.

[Levi] Yes, definitely.

[Golan] The talks will probably also dwell on other issues, such as the so-called new order in the Middle East after the war—and the war is more or less behind us. We hear that an argument has erupted among senior Israeli ministers. For instance, you say you are prepared to negotiate with the Arabs who cheered from the rooftops, while Minister Sharon said yesterday that yours are private plans and that the government must decide on a plan with the approval of a majority. What position will the secretary of state hear during his visit? Will he hear a unanimous position?

[Levi] Arye, you really surprise me. You are an experienced political correspondent who has been following the government's decisions and policy. Minister Sharon has been raising all sorts of ideas—at the moment they are private ideas—that absolutely contradict the government's decisions, conflict with its declared policy and its basic guidelines. If he thinks that by saying that we will seize the opportunity to attain everything—in other words, to implement Israeli law in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza—I want to know whether the government's decision, policy, and initiative have all passed away. As long as the government has not passed any other decisions and has not abolished previous ones, such statements are private and damaging utterances that might bring about pressure on Israel.

[Golan] That is absolutely clear. I have just now remembered that you both used to be part of the constraints camp.

[Levi] The initiative of May 1989 had to do with the PLO and its demands. Additional elements were added to it that distorted it. Conditions were added to it that, if accepted, would have given the PLO indirect representation in the talks that would have later become direct representation. I fought against that initiative because of all those reasons.

Today, those conditions are no longer on the agenda; the government fell because it refused to accept them. Had we accepted those conditions, the PLO would have joined in and the game would have been doomed from the outset. Now that the PLO is persona non grata and will slowly disappear from the stage, we can definitely be the leaders—and herein lies political wisdom—rather than the ones being led with an initiative of our own. I was asked in the Knesset whether, now that the PLO is out of the picture, I would agree to speak to the Palestinians who cheer from the rooftops. That is not a rhetorical question, but one of substance; after all, I did not choose the ones who are cheering and dancing on the rooftops. The PLO should be out of the picture because it is not a partner but an obstacle to peace; it cannot be a partner to anything. If representatives emerge among the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza who are not PLO members and who accept the formula inherent in the Israeli initiative—which does not entail a Palestinian state—should we speak to them or should we say that there is nobody to talk to and that we trust nobody? The conclusion is that other than the PLO there is really nobody. The sobering process taking place today gives us a big chance to be the leaders with our peace initiative, as well as with our just demand—which is gradually being accepted throughout the world—that direct negotiations with Israel are the right and only way to peace.

[Golan] Minister Levi, we have yet another just demand, but it remains to be seen whether the Americans acknowledge it. I am talking about our request for emergency aid due to the serious damages we sustained in the war, which amount to billions of dollars. Will we also discuss that issue with Baker? What are the chances of our request being granted?

[Levi] We will discuss many issues. These days, however, one cannot praise the United States for its operation and victory and in the same breath talk about it as if it were the enemy. We do not have an alternative to the United States. Hence, we must try to reach understandings with it, and that is possible. The United States has said as much, both in direct talks and in writing; it wants to coordinate positions with Israel, first of all. There are and there will be differences of opinion. Although the Americans do not support the Israeli position, they do not treat Israel as a hostile force. They want to promote the peace initiative so that this will be the last war. Can we aspire and hope for anything more than that? That is our hope. That is why we should proceed to deal with the matter with understanding, through dialogue and coordination. Israel does not avoid peace; it yearns for peace. The justness of its position has now been demonstrated. When Israel said that Iraq and Syria threaten its very

existence, we were told we were exaggerating. The justness of our position has now come to light.

Hence, when we talk of a new order, old and obsolete formulas should be let go. I think we can influence the United States and its coalition partners—this is in their interest—and attain their support for our position advocating direct negotiations with the Palestinians, without preconditions and according to our initiative. We must now muster the necessary understanding for our initiative. Anyone saying that we should take advantage of this opportunity to abandon our initiative and annex Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza—if this were a matter we could decide among ourselves, who would say no; is there a Jew who would not want it?—is actually talking about the very move that could lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state. If we did that, the entire world would rise up against us, because we deceived it as well as ourselves and thereby showed ourselves to be irresponsible people.

We must be responsible. A Palestinian state is a threat to our existence. On the other hand, our initiative gives us maneuvering room to coordinate positions and proceed with credibility to make the Arab countries speak to us. Anybody familiar with the mentality of the Arab world and the Palestinians knows that they will not sit on the sidelines and let al-Asad or somebody else deal with their case. They will realize that the PLO led them to ruin and disaster, and they will come running to talk peace with Israel.

[Golan] I hope that is so. Thank you very much, Mr. Foreign Minister.

[Levi] All the best to you.

Shamir Urges Elimination of Missiles, Other Arms
TA2802154291 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1200 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] The prime minister has said that Israel has a great interest in the results of the war and the developments that will follow it in the Middle East. In the immediate term, the cease-fire must clearly include the missile attacks, and the cease-fire arrangements must include the elimination of all missile launchers and the nonconventional weapons arsenals in Iraq.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that the Prime Minister's Office this morning issued an announcement about Shamir's remarks, in which he expressed the hope that the elimination of tyranny in Iraq would be followed by the willingness of Arab countries to reach peace with Israel.

The prime minister congratulated the allies, headed by the United States and President Bush, on the victory in the war against Iraq. He added that even on this happy day we remember the victims of war in Israel, and we send our condolences to their families, as well as wishes for a speedy recovery to the wounded. The government

will do all that it can to see that those who were evacuated from their homes will have them reconstructed soon.

Shamir: Gulf War Boosts Extremists in Arab World
TA2702105091 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Feb 91 p 10

[Report by Knesset correspondent Asher Wallfish]

[Text] Preparations for post-war diplomatic activity in the Middle East arena are already in motion but the tremors generated by the war will reverberate around the Arab world for a long time to come, Prime Minister Shamir told the Knesset foreign affairs and defense committee yesterday.

"In Arab countries where the regime and public opinion are in conflict, there have been widespread demonstrations and grave manifestations," Shamir said. "Following the widespread wave of anti-Israel feeling, the old distinctions between extremist and moderate Arab governments no longer exists."

Shamir said Israel is concerned about future trends in Jordan, where for the first time extremist currents have swept the king himself along.

"Nobody knows which way things are going, and we shall have to take that fact into account now that we have started weighing ideas for our future diplomatic conversations."

He said the government is keeping a close watch on the deteriorating situation of the Jewish communities in North African countries like Tunisia and Morocco, caused by growing Muslim fundamentalism and anti-Israel extremism.

Shamir came under sharp attack from Labor Party chairman Shim'on Peres for having displayed in his Monday meeting with the Likud faction what Peres called "an ingrained hatred of Labor."

"When we remember how you sabotaged two chances of promoting peace efforts through the proposed London conference with Jordan and elections in the territories," Peres said, "we, too, shudder at the prospect of your continued premiership."

Peres charged that Shamir had nothing to say about any plans to prevent future Middle East wars in which Iran, Syria and Iraq might team up against Israel.

He said Shamir had no solution to the problem presented by three-quarters of a million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. "Your policy of not giving up one inch of territory will lead us nowhere."

Committee chairman Eliyahu Ben-Elisar said that all Labor could do was to blame Israel for recurrent regional crises, and pretend that the Arabs wanted nothing but peace. "You happen to know what is really in the minds

of Syria and the PLO. Labor never gave Israel peace; only the Likud. You are nothing but defeatists."

In his closing remarks, Shamir hit back at Peres. "I don't loathe Labor or any other Jewish party, and I never uttered words of hatred. I told the Likud faction that I shuddered because of my fear that Labor might again conduct the policy of this nation, and I fear for the fate of the Jewish people if your party again becomes responsible for the national destiny."

"That does not signify hatred of you. It signifies a love for my people. I shall do my all to see you never again have the power to manage this country's affairs."

Defense Minister Arens Discusses Gulf Situation

Interviewed on Peace Process

TA2802211891 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Shlomo Ganor, Yoni Ben-Menahem, and Dani Levi; on 28 February—recorded in Arabic with Hebrew subtitles]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Levi] Do you see Baker's upcoming visit to the region as the beginning of the consolidation of a new order in the Middle East?

[Arens] Our ideas are known, and they are included in the Israeli Government's peace initiative of May 1989. I have no doubt that these ideas are right, that all the components of this initiative are right. Additions are possible here and there, but I think the four points mentioned in the initiative should be promoted to advance the political process in the region.

[Levi] From Israel's point of view, do you see any room to introduce any changes in this initiative?

[Arens] As I said, changes are possible here and there, but it seems to me that these four points are the basis. I cannot foresee any real progress if even one of the four points is omitted.

[Ben-Menahem] Will the solution of the Palestinian problem and the future of the territories become part of this new order in the very near future?

[Arens] The territories and the Arab population of the territories are an issue we must deal with regardless of whether there is a new order or not. It is a problem for us, and a very big problem for the population. These people have undergone three years of suffering during the intifadah, and have now experienced six weeks of almost unbearable hardships. I hope that in the wake of this suffering many of them reached the conclusion that violence leads nowhere but to additional suffering, and that the time has come to call off the violence and begin the political process.

[Ben-Menahem] Do you discern any signs that the inhabitants of the territories are sobering up from the illusion known as Saddam Husayn?

[Arens] I cannot assert that a few hours after President Bush's speech, but I would be very surprised if after these dramatic and traumatic events there were many Arabs in the territories who believe they can promote their aspirations through war and violence.

[Levi] Do you foresee a change in their attitude toward the PLO's traditional leadership?

[Arens] That is a very general question—to what extent do people draw the conclusion that their leaders must go after failing so blatantly and visibly—which could apply both to the PLO's leadership and to Saddam Husayn. I cannot tell you whether the Iraqi people will reach this conclusion regarding Saddam Husayn, and I cannot say whether the Arab population of the territories will reach regarding 'Arafat. In my opinion, logic would have it that they should go.

[Levi] Do you foresee 'Arafat stepping down?

[Arens] I hope so, because he has not contributed anything to establishing peace in the region. In my opinion, he has not contributed anything to advancing the interests of the population in the area.

[Ganor] Mr. Arens, has the time come to promote an alternate and new leadership in the territories?

[Arens] I hesitate to use the word promote, because I believe this leadership should emerge on its own. After all, in accordance with the Israeli Government's political initiative, it must receive a mandate through elections. Therefore, although I am the defense minister and am responsible for Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, I do not consider it my job to cultivate or promote a leadership. Such a leadership should emerge on its own, and I suppose that it will.

[Levi] And if it does not, how do we promote the process? We object to the PLO's intervention but, on the other hand, you say there is a problem with the emergence of a local leadership. How does one go about promoting the process then?

[Arens] I did not say there is a problem with the emergence of a local leadership. I only said that it is not up to me to advance it. I suppose it would emerge and grow naturally, by means of the elections. According to the standards accepted in the free and democratic world, the people elected are those who attained the confidence of the majority of voters.

[Ben-Menahem] Some cabinet members have already given up on the notion of elections. What do you say about it?

[Arens] I have not heard anything of the sort and, therefore, I cannot comment on it.

[Ben-Menahem] Do you think that the climate is ripe for holding free elections in accordance with our initiative?

[Arens] I have no doubt that elections in the territories are an integral part of promoting the peace and political process. I have no doubt that we are closer to it today than we were a year or even a month ago.

[Levi] And you are not apprehensive about the results of such elections, such as the rise of Islamic elements?

[Arens] Look, if the people elected are extremists who are not interested in reaching peace with Israel or try to present conditions that would be unacceptable to us, the move would certainly get stuck. We are basing ourselves on the premise that the moment negotiations start they should culminate in an agreement; I want to believe that. Negotiations are a prerequisite and a first step or else no agreement can be attained. Indeed, there can very well be a situation where the elected people are so extreme that we would have contacts and negotiations, but no agreement. I hope the Arab population realizes this, and I hope the majority of them give their vote to people with whom there is a chance of arriving at an understanding and agreement. [passage omitted]

[Ganor] The United States played the leading role in the Gulf war. Now that the war is over it will probably make demands from the region and from Israel. Will we be facing pressure?

[Arens] I have said before that we do not need any urging when it comes to peace. This does not mean that the U.S. Administration will agree with the Israeli Government on the ways which must be pursued in the direction of peace. We may have differences of opinion, just as we had in the past. I hope we do not, because I would like to believe that the entire world, including the United States, has learned the tough reality of the Middle East. I have the impression that in the last few years, until 2 August of last year, many countries really did not know the reality of the Middle East as we know it because we live here.

[Ganor] Can you today indicate the points of disagreement which might, God forbid, emerge between Jerusalem and Washington?

[Arens] I think it would be unwise on my part to do so. First of all, I hope they do not emerge. I suggest that we wait and see if they do and what they are.

[Ganor] I accept your suggestion. Mr. Defense Minister, thank you very much, and thanks to my colleagues.

Comments on Gulf Developments

TA2802123291 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1135 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by military correspondents Karmela Menashe and Amir Fink in Tel Aviv—live]

[Text] [Menashe] We are in the defense minister's office. Defense Minister Arens, it was decided this morning to return to a normal routine. Can we store the defense kits and open up the sealed rooms without fear?

[Arens] We should store the defense kits away and abolish the sealed room and return to normal life. At the same time, in the Middle East there is always room for concern.

[Fink] Mr. Minister, can you share with us the considerations which brought about that decision?

[Arens] The considerations were linked to, first, the social and economic price we are paying for those cautious measures we adopted for the last six weeks, and, on the other hand, our evaluation that after several days in which Saddam Husayn, via his emissaries, has been looking for a way to bring about a cease-fire he finally found the way when he heard President Bush's address last night. I believe the danger that he will take measures that will bring about a renewal of the war are very small.

[Fink] Was that decision not made too hastily?

[Arens] I do not believe the decision was too hasty. As I said, the continuation of the state of emergency and the routine emergency, as we have called it, is linked to a not insignificant social and economic price.

[Menashe] Is there a U.S. promise that the missile threat has been removed?

[Arens] The U.S. promise is the readiness to take action to lift the missile threat. That is a promise that has existed for over six weeks. A great effort has in fact been invested by the U.S. military to end the missile threat. At the same time, reality has shown that the threat has been reduced, but it still exists.

[Menashe] Was U.S. activity over the missile launching sites to your satisfaction, since according to reports, ground forces were not active there?

[Arens] I would not like to go into the operational details of the U.S. operation. A great effort was invested, and of course we would have been 100 percent happy had we seen proof of lifting that threat. Only a few days ago, on Monday, two missiles fell on Israel.

[Fink] We were told yesterday that launchers remain in western Iraq, and that there is also a threat of missiles with chemical warheads. Is there no longer such a threat?

[Arens] Technically, I would say that even now the capability to launch missiles against Israel apparently exists, and in that sense the threat also exists. But we should remember that that capability existed for several months even before the war broke out. Last April, Saddam Husayn threatened Israel with his missiles. We believe that in the current situation he will not take a step which would bring about a renewal of the fighting. It is clear to us that launching missiles at Israel would bring an immediate renewal of the fighting.

[Fink] Was the U.S. military campaign to your satisfaction?

[Arens] I believe that the U.S. military campaign was excellent and is being lauded around the world because it brought Saddam Husayn from the mother of all wars to the mother of all defeats.

[Menashe] Mr. Arens, is it now completely clear whether they have or do not have chemical weapons? You said we will know only after the war ends.

[Arens] First, it is clear to us that they have chemical weapons. That was clear to us before the war began and it is clear to us now.

[Menashe] Missiles with chemical warheads?

[Arens] I cannot give you an unequivocal answer to that. In recent weeks we operated on the assumption that they have the capability of attaching chemical warheads to missiles. I believe we had to act on that assumption. We did not have any indications to permit an unequivocal assumption that they do not have that capability.

[Menashe] You and the chief of staff have already said that Saddam Husayn's continued rule means another war. Saddam Husayn still rules Iraq.

[Arens] I cannot tell you if that means another war. Whoever rules Iraq, whether it is Saddam Husayn or somebody else, will have to decide between the path of rehabilitating Iraq and abandoning war, and the path of rearming for another war. I hope they will choose the former.

[Menashe] Did the Americans consult with you prior to the decision on the cease-fire?

[Arens] We are in daily contact with the U.S. Defense Department, and therefore we received updates on the development of the war. The Americans did not consult with us on the President's decision to end the fighting in the field, but it was clear to us that the defeat of the Iraqi Army was so great that it was only a question of days or even hours before a cease-fire came into effect.

[Fink] Did you transmit a message to the Americans about Israel's expectations about what sort of Iraq they will leave behind after their forces leave the Gulf?

[Arens] I believe our expectations are basically no different from those of the United States, or I would add, from the expectations of the world. We do not want to see a war machine in Iraq again, whether conventional or nonconventional.

[Fink] After the cease-fire there will be demands from Kuwait for compensation from Iraq. The damage in Israel comes to tens of millions of shekels, if not more. Will Israel also request compensation?

[Arens] I have no doubt that Israel has the full right to demand compensation for the large damage caused here

by Scud missiles, and I assume the Israeli Government will demand that compensation.

[Menashe] You said there are plans ready. Does the lack of a reaction erode Israel's deterrent capability? That question has been asked since the war began.

[Arens] I do not believe so. I believe that our deterrent capability is first and foremost based on our military capability, which is immense. I believe that is not a secret; it is known to the entire world, including the Arab world.

[Menashe] Do you now see a possibility of Israel acting at any stage? Are there any red lines for Iraq today?

[Arens] I believe the Iraqis should take an Israeli reaction into account if they are thinking at all about renewing the fighting. I do not believe they are considering that, but if they do, they have to take an Israeli reaction into account.

[Fink] At this stage, Israel does not have a complete answer for the surface-to-surface missiles. Is there a need to change Israel's central defense concept?

[Arens] First, I would like to remind you that nobody has a full answer to surface-to-surface missiles. We witnessed the tragic attack on a building in Dhahran with a surface-to-surface missile, which caused a very large number of fatalities and casualties among U.S. soldiers. Little Israel is in fact in the midst of developing the Arrow system, which will provide the answer to medium-range ballistic missiles like the Scud.

[Fink] This war demanded a high alert by the Air Force and Intelligence, as well as the home front. Has that alert now been reduced?

[Arens] We are in the process of reducing that alert according to the circumstances.

[Menashe] Already today there are those who demand inquiry committees, for intelligence mishaps, for instance, or for the preparation of the home front. Have you begun to draw conclusions?

[Arens] I would like to distinguish between inquiry committees and the drawing of conclusions, which is an essential process that must and will be implemented. I do not believe that inquiry committees are vital and positive. I do know, however, that there is an inquiry committee syndrome in Israel, and it is possible that some people will want to set up such committees. God bless them.

[Menashe] Will a home front command be set up, as had been planned?

[Arens] We are in the midst of planning IDF [Israel Defense Forces] deployment to handle the home front. I have no doubt that the new lineup will concentrate the powers and responsibility for the home front during a state of war the moment we conclude the planning. We

did not want to present the results, but in the coming months we will complete the planning work, present the conclusions, and implement them.

[Menashe] What is the main lesson you, as defense minister, drew from the Gulf war? Was the home front prepared?

[Arens] I believe our home front was prepared as far as it was possible to be prepared. The preparations and the measures we adopted to defend the home front are unprecedented. Those things have not been done anywhere else in the world. The allocation of defense kits to the entire population, the development of special kits for babies and young people, sealed rooms, all those measures—which are not easy to implement and which we adopted to defend ourselves against what could have been a great danger—are unprecedented.

[Menashe] Do you have any misgivings about all the decisions on sealed rooms and gas masks?

[Arens] I think that in the face of quite difficult circumstances and dangers unprecedented in the history of mankind—an entire civilian population has never before been threatened with chemical warfare—we took the right measures. I think the results speak for themselves.

[Fink] Mr. Arens, in your capacity as defense minister, were you surprised in the course of this war?

[Arens] I assume there are no wars without surprises, and nobody can predict everything. Nevertheless, I think it should be stressed that our intelligence personnel were the first—and to a certain extent, perhaps even the only ones—to assess correctly the strength of the war machine Iraq was building and the vast danger inherent in it to the entire region and to the world at large.

[Fink] Has Israel recently submitted aid requests to the United States that were greeted with cynicism, as Minister Ne'eman said this morning?

[Arens] Through our embassy in Washington Israel submitted a request for \$1 billion in military aid to help us cover all the expenditures incurred as a result of the preparations and the state of alert. I did not hear about any cynical reaction to that request.

[Menashe] What was the reaction?

[Arens] I think we should be patient and see whether Congress will grant us that sum.

[Menashe] It has been said often that this war will lead to a new Middle East, that a new order will emerge. How will Israel merge into that new order?

[Arens] This is not the first war in the Middle East. I think that every war gave rise to expectations about a new Middle East and a new order. We also have such hopes and expectations this time. I hope we will not be disappointed. I very much hope that in the wake of this war the Arab countries and their leaders—all of them,

not just the Egyptians, who made that decision a long time ago—will decide to tread the path of peace rather than that of war.

[Menashe] And what about Israel?

[Arens] Israel has always wanted to tread the path of peace. I once told Secretary of State Baker that when he comes to Israel—and I understand that he is coming here soon—he may want to visit our military cemeteries, and he will then realize the enormous and tragic price Israel has paid for the absence of peace. He will also realize—as I hope he realizes already—how strong is our desire and yearning for peace in the region.

[Menashe] Will Israel be ready to make concessions beyond those it has been ready to make up until now?

[Arens] I do not want to conduct the peace negotiations with you, Karmela, although it would probably be easier to do it with you than with the real partners. At this stage, I see no reason why we should announce that we are prepared to make any concessions. I do not think that the problem of peace in the Middle East is primarily one of concessions by Israel.

[Menashe] Let us go over to the issue of Jordan: The king continues to support Iraq while Islamic fundamentalists continue to gain strength. Do you think King Husayn is on the verge of collapse? How could that affect the area?

[Arens] My impression is that the entire Arab world has undergone a traumatic experience, and I do not know what scars, if any, will be left on all Arab societies in general and on Jordan in particular. I do not know how that will affect Arab rulers in Jordan and other countries. I think it is too early to tell. Our impression is that King Husayn felt he had no choice other than to heed the desire of the masses and support Saddam Husayn. If he had any illusions that Saddam Husayn could defeat the allied forces, I think it is obvious that today he knows they were just illusions.

[Fink] Mr. Arens, what about Syria? Is it closer than ever today to negotiating with Israel?

[Arens] I hope so. I hope the fact that Syria was part of the coalition that stood up to and fought Saddam Husayn helped move the Syrian regime in the direction of peace with Israel. We have not yet discerned any signs to that effect, but I hope that is the case.

[Fink] Have you received any signals from the Syrians?

[Arens] We have not received any signals whatsoever. I am not complaining about it. After all, the Syrians have been busy in the last few weeks; they had some military units participating in the war. To the extent that some change has occurred, I assume we will discern it in the next few weeks.

[Menashe] Missiles were fired at Riyadh and Tel Aviv. Messages were sent by the Saudis in the course of the war. Do you think there is a chance of entering negotiations with them?

[Arens] Those who saw Riyadh being attacked by missiles probably thought, as I did, that Riyadh and Tel Aviv should now become twin cities, seeing that both faced the same dangers and underwent similar experiences. I think it is too early, however, to tell whether that shared fate and the common interests that emerged in this war will lead them to the path of peace with Israel. We certainly hope that will be the case.

[Menashe] Mr. Arens, a yeshiva student was murdered this morning as soon as the normal routine was resumed. Do you foresee an escalation in the intifadah and internal terror, and perhaps even an escalation of the situation on the borders?

[Arens] I hope not. I hope the lesson has been learned, in the wake of the Gulf war, that violence only breeds more suffering, does not promote interests, and certainly does not advance the political process. The Arab population of Judea, Samaria, and Gaza has suffered a great deal in the three years of the intifadah. It experienced six weeks of almost unbearable hardships during the war. If all they concluded from that experience is that violence, murder, and terror must continue, then they have really not learned anything. I hope that is not the case.

[Fink] To sum up, sir, a month ago you predicted that the war would end within a month. Do you feel at ease with your decision today to resume normal life? Are you happy today?

[Arens] I am happy to go back to normal. I have no doubt we made the right decision. At the same time, we must bear in mind that the Middle East is an unstable region. The Iraqis are not the only ones who adopted a hostile policy toward Israel. We must go on building the IDF's abilities and be prepared for every eventuality. At the same time, we must hope that through our political moves we will be able to influence the situation in the Middle East and lead it in the direction of peace and stability.

[Fink] Defense Minister Moshe Arens, thank you very much.

Views Security Needs

TA2802172991 Tel Aviv Educational Television
Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Dan Margalit in Arens' office "a few minutes ago"—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Margalit] Must Israel ask the United States not to end the Gulf conflict before Iraq returns to the enlightened world all of the 25 kg of nuclear fuel in its possession?

[Arens] No doubt negotiations will now begin with the Iraqi Government, be it under the leadership of Saddam Husayn or the person who replaces him, on the conditions the Iraqis must meet. I think these conditions will definitely include dismantling their war machine, particularly their nonconventional weapons. [passage omitted]

[Margalit] Sir, a cease-fire is in effect. Are you sorry that there was no Israeli military operation?

[Arens] We had been prepared to contribute our part to eliminate the missile threat against Israel. We held off an operation due to political considerations, seeing that U.S. troops were operating in the same arena. Recently we thought the political limitations were getting slacker and that an opportunity might emerge to take action, but before we got to that point the war ended, at least for the moment.

[Margalit] Is that good?

[Arens] It is always good when a war is over.

[Margalit] Is one of the conclusions from this war that Israel needs reconnaissance satellites and needs to speed up the development of the Arrow project?

[Arens] Let me first answer the second part of your question.

[Margalit] That is the easiest part, because there are no disagreements about it.

[Arens] I do not think there are disagreements on other issues either. The Arrow is a recognized project, which incidentally represents an enormous achievement for Israeli technology. It is the answer to ballistic missiles and cannot be found anywhere else in the world. Although the United States is helping finance its development, it is an Israeli engineering project. It will provide almost an absolute answer to the threat of missiles. We will do everything we can—we hope we will also get U.S. assistance—to speed it up and bring the Arrow system to an operational stage as early as possible.

Intelligence is always in short supply. We always want to know what lies on the other side of the mountain, which in this case is 500 km away. Satellites are one of the modern means to go about it. We have proven that we have the ability to send satellites into orbit. We have already launched two satellites. I suppose nobody will be surprised if one of these days Israel attains a satellite with reconnaissance capabilities. Still, there is no doubt in my mind that one of the reasons for the instability in the region and the threats to Israel lies in the massive arms sales to the Middle East countries, including Iraq in the last few years. I think efforts should be made to stop the export of arms to the Middle East.

Ne'eman Discusses Baker's Visit, Inaction in Gulf

TA0103041091 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
2115 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Telephone interview with Yuval Ne'eman, minister of energy and infrastructure, and science and technology, by Hayim Yavin—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Yavin] Mr. Baker is scheduled to arrive here next week. How do you think Israel should prepare for this visit? Should we tell the Americans: You are talking of a new order; we, too, have ideas for such an order? Should we perhaps tell them that we, too, have raised ideas already and would like to place them on the agenda again? How should we welcome him in fact?

[Ne'eman] First, we need to welcome Mr. Baker, as it is nice of him, now that he has been in office a little over a year, to remember to also pay a visit to Israel, in this region that he has frequented so often. He has never been to Israel, so we should show him some of the Israeli scene, share Israel's problems with him, take him around to see the debris in those streets hit by the Scud missiles, and also get him to have a feel for Israel's security problems. Mr. Baker is Texas born, and I am well acquainted with Texas. You can shoot a Scud missile at one end of Texas and it will not reach the other end of the state!

[Yavin] He will probably make other requests of us.

[Ne'eman] I would tell him to wait a little with the other matters. I have just now seen a table of the compensation and aid extended to countries which have suffered as a result of the conflict. Even Jordan—and I am wary about using epithets here; Jordan is a country that actually collaborated with the enemy, and as it transpired today, also supplied arms to Iraq after the embargo against that country was already in effect—is on the list of the aid recipients. Look also at Egypt, our friend—not only was a \$7 billion loan written off for it, but this country will also receive another \$4 billion sometime soon. This is all very nice indeed, but where we are concerned, when the finance minister traveled to the United States and raised some figures, both the Israeli and U.S. press stated it was impossible to talk of money here; gentlemen do not talk of money; You Israelis have to suffer quietly, surely not talk of money! It seems then that all but us can talk of money. The defense minister also visited the United States....

[Yavin, interrupting] You are proposing that we do talk about money then.

[Ne'eman] I think we should first tell Mr. Baker it is out of the question that Israel not be compensated. Israel has suffered serious losses as it was dragged into the conflict. Also, to quite an extent, the desire to fire Scud missiles on Tel Aviv in fact resulted from Saddam Husayn's inability to launch such missiles at New York. We absorbed this and were even kind enough not to react, so

let the Americans at least help us undo what was done, first and foremost. I would say this should precede any other discussion; this and the terms for a settlement in the Gulf—the promise that neither the coalition will proceed, nor will Saddam Husayn be allowed to proceed, without guaranteeing the destruction of the remaining launchers and the purging of the conventional weapons, a real root canal treatment so to speak. These are the issues we should deal with when Mr. Baker comes here, in my opinion.

[Yavin] Let me briefly ask you a final question. Has Israel emerged from this war stronger, weaker, or the same?

[Ne'eman] I would say that remarks to the effect that our deterrence was damaged are somewhat true, even if it is only for those pictures on television of demonstrations in Jordan, today too, showing the joy of those people parading with that type of mockup Scud missiles that hit Tel Aviv. In other words, virginity was somewhat lost here. It has suddenly emerged that it is possible to hit Tel Aviv and not get penalized for it. From this point of view I would say we have lost something....

[Yavin, interrupting] Did we err in not intervening in this war?

[Ne'eman] I think we should have somehow found a way of not being totally dependent on others' favors. Incidentally, this entire story about the great sympathy for Israel which swept the entire world—you hardly hear any of this sympathy today, except from Germany. The Germans, due to guilt feelings for the more distant past and the link between that past and the more recent time of supplying the gases to Iraq, sent some signals, practical ones, too, when they assumed the work of building our Navy submarines, thus taking care of our security. Otherwise, I would say the entire story of sympathy has vanished. U.S. press articles discuss the insolence of Israel which wanted to disrupt things when U.S. soldiers were endangering their lives for it.

[Yavin] You would have intervened in the war if it had been up to you, would you not?

[Ne'eman] I would have definitely voted for this, mainly those moments when it was clear that the Americans were not operating effectively. I do not know whether the public knows that some of this task of attacking the missile launchers, the Americans—I would attribute this to their naivete, as I would not want to suspect other motives here—entrusted to the Saudi Air Force at a certain stage. I, for one, did not feel comfortable knowing it was the Saudis who were destroying the launchers aimed at Tel Aviv. I do not think that the U.S. coalition would have been shaken if that [Israeli intervention] had taken place. As far as the Americans are concerned, the only reason we were told not to operate was in order to create a situation where we would not be owed anything, where it is we who would be in their debt. This is a simple equation.

[Yavin] Professor Ne'eman, I thank you for talking with us. Good night to you.

14 May 1989 Plan To Be Discussed With Baker

TA2802171691 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1525 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Excerpts] Israel, on the morning after the war, is concentrating its efforts primarily on its immediate aim: a consolidation of security arrangements. The U.S. and Iraqi announcements were not sufficiently detailed on the elimination of the threat posed to Israel by the Scud missiles. [passage omitted]

After the immediate problem of removing the future Iraqi threat is taken care of, the government needs to clear its table quickly for the political issue. Secretary of State James Baker is due to arrive in Israel at the beginning of next week, probably on Monday. At the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry, officials are preparing for the meetings with Baker. On the agenda, as far as Israel is concerned, is the government's peace plan from 14 May 1989 and Foreign Minister Levi's five-point plan. Official Israel is greatly encouraged by the decline in the PLO's status in the United States and, to a lesser extent, in Europe. It should be noted, however, that the idea of the international conference has not been removed from the agenda. In light of the impending renewal of the political process, the argument within the government also has new life. The date for a political debate, however, has still not been set.

Ben-Aharon: Peace Only Through U.S. Cooperation

TA2802175091 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1540 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Gay Zohar and Gilat Levi—live]

[Excerpts] [Zohar] Good evening, Mr. Ben-Aharon.

[Ben-Aharon] Good evening.

[Zohar] First of all, before we begin, perhaps you can clear up some doubts we have here. We have received a report from one of the news agencies stating, in the name of an anonymous senior official, that Israel is not one of the countries on Secretary of State Baker's schedule. Have we already received any confirmation that the U.S. secretary of state will come to Israel next week?

[Ben-Aharon] That is what we were told by both our ambassador in the United States and by the U.S. ambassador in Israel. The date has still not been set, however, and as long as the date is not fixed, it is not completely final. I assume that he will be coming. [passage omitted]

[Levi] Do we have any idea of the U.S. plans for a comprehensive peace agreement in the Middle East? Do they have any plans for a comprehensive settlement?

[Ben-Aharon] No, no. I would direct everyone's attention to statements made by the secretary of state while testifying before both houses of Congress, when his statements were characterized by queries and questions more than by decisions. This fact in itself is important, because the U.S. inclination after Israeli-Arab wars in the past was to come with a finished plan—almost, I would say, with a map. Those plans did not further any process of negotiation but, on the contrary, only caused some frustration and were eventually buried. This time....

[Zohar, interrupting] Wait a minute. Do you have any doubt that the secretary of state will come here with at least the intention of moving the process forward, even at the price of a deterioration in relations with Israel?

[Ben-Aharon] The intention will certainly be there, but not a willingness to hurt relations. If there is any deterioration in relations, there will be no progress; it is very simple. Therefore, I think he will come to consult with us, to voice his opinions, and to hear ours. Progress can be achieved only if there is cooperation between us and the United States. We are very interested this time in securing some concrete achievements and in turning our backs on unsuccessful past experiences. [passage omitted]

[Zohar] You mentioned something concrete. Does Israel have any concrete proposals beyond those offered in the past? Is anyone working on this, or will we have to pull old plans out of the drawer?

[Ben-Aharon] Old plans are not obsolete as such, especially when they have not been tried. We must, however, always adapt the ideas of the past to the lessons of today. I definitely think that quite a few lessons could be drawn from the developments of the past six months in the Middle East. To a great extent, I must say—without becoming too sure of ourselves—that the conclusions proved that many of our assumptions were correct. The Arabs' animosity toward Israel, the nature of their regimes, the shaky relationship between the Arab countries, the classification of moderate as opposed to extremist states—what we had told our American friends regarding all those subjects was, to my sorrow, correct. I say to my regret because we paid a price for it. Now let us hope that we have a better common basis for progress toward negotiations.

[Zohar] Thank you and good evening, Mr. Ben-Aharon.

Ben-Aharon on Lessons Learned From Gulf War

TA2702172391 Tel Aviv Educational Television
Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Dan Shilon—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Shilon] Let us talk about the initial stages after the war. What will Israel bring to the negotiating table? With your permission, I am basing this question on the premise that in the peace that will follow this war, George Bush will be a different President, with a stronger position in U.S. public opinion. He will not need the Jewish vote so much, and he will be able to take less notice of Israel's needs and interests. Will we be in trouble after the war?

[Ben-Aharon] We do not need pressure from George Bush, whom we wish success—his actions in the last few months have scored him a spectacular success—and do not need pressure from the United States or any other element to get to the negotiating table. What we need is a partner who will not demand up front that we promise to give territory in exchange for peace—the formula that has once again been rescued from oblivion. What we need is a partner who will tell us that he wants to turn over a new leaf, starting with recognition of the State of Israel's right to exist and continuing with direct negotiations with the authorized Arab representatives of each of our neighboring Arab countries to discuss peace arrangements.

[Shilon] You are talking only about Arab countries and not about the Palestinian people.

[Ben-Aharon] We will not omit anything. The Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip also need a solution, and we will come with a proposal to solve their problem in the framework of....

[Shilon, interrupting] A new proposal?

[Ben-Aharon] Dan, not everything new is necessarily good. Vintage wine is also good, especially on Purim.

[Shilon] Are you comparing the Israeli Government's political plan of 18 months ago to vintage wine?

[Ben-Aharon] You know, an 18-month-old wine is also good on Purim. Seriously speaking, I do not want to say that we do not have new things. We must draw conclusions from what has happened. We must remember that something traumatic has occurred in the Middle East: Discoveries have been made; myths have been exposed. Policymakers must take note of all this: first and foremost, of the credibility and character of the Arab regimes and also of the danger posed to Israel from the east, not just from Iraq's borders but also by the Jordanian kingdom, whose weakness has been revealed. After all, who knows what would have happened if Iraq had chosen to deploy troops in Jordan. If that had been the case, who knows what would have happened here. Let me remind you that Jordan has always been an attractive vacuum into which its neighbors would like to step, and this must also be taken into account.

[Shilon] You are talking about conclusions to be drawn about other countries, whereas I want to know what is the conclusion we should draw about ourselves. Will we stick to the positions with which we entered this war—

never mind that we did not take part in it—while trying to convince the world that it must draw the conclusions from the events that have taken place, or will we change our positions?

[Ben-Aharon] We must draw all the conclusions, including those about ourselves.

[Shilon] Tell us what you learned from this war.

[Ben-Aharon] We all learned about the threat of missiles which can hit us even from a distance of 500 to 600 km. This means that one of the first items on the negotiating table will have to be the threat posed by nonconventional and conventional weapons. After all, we have seen that massive quantities of conventional weapons are no less dangerous to the State of Israel and its people than the missiles—the weapons of terror—in western Iraq.

Here is another lesson: The missiles hit some Israelis and, unfortunately, they also hit many Americans in a single incident; however, they did not conquer the State of Israel or Saudi Arabia. The massive forces of the U.S. and allied troops are now about to conquer Iraq and perhaps overthrow its regime.

[Shilon] In other words, your main lesson is in the realm of security and not necessarily a political one.

[Ben-Aharon] They are interrelated. After all, our cardinal problem is one that pertains to our existence and security. We do not talk about secure borders, direct negotiations, and disarmament just for the sake of it, but because these pertain to our very existence, seeing that we are not yet certain that there is willingness.... [changes thought]

Here is another lesson, Dan. What happened when Saddam Husayn said that he would burn half the State of Israel? How did this statement reverberate throughout the Arab masses? Should we take note of this?

What is the conclusion? Well, the conclusion is that there is still no willingness to come to terms with Israel as a

state that has as much right to exist as any other country, as poor Kuwait, Djibouti, or Somalia, which are members of the Arab League. We want the Arab countries to say to each other, in Arabic, that there is room for the Jewish state in the Middle East. It seems to me that the gates will then open to a brighter future.

[Shilon] Yosi Ben-Aharon, thank you for coming to our studio in Jerusalem.

Sources Pleased With Saddam's Defeat; Ze'evi Speaks

TA2802054491 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0530 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Jerusalem is pleased with the end of the war and Saddam Husayn's defeat. Political sources said this morning that if the war has indeed ended, Israel can be pleased by the destruction of the Iraqi war machine.

At the same time the sources said that we must wait and see what Saddam Husayn's fate will be.

Minister Rehav'am Ze'evi this morning called on the Israeli Government to guard its rights in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza in view of the new arrangements expected to take place in our region.

Unlicensed Arabs Will Not Be Allowed To Work

TA2802213891 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1500 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Stiffer controls over laborers from the territories will be imposed at the end of the Gulf war, and only licensed workers will be allowed to work in Israel. They will not be allowed to sleep in Israel overnight, and they will have to get to their jobs by organized transportation. This was decided by Menahem Porush, deputy labor and social affairs minister, and Freddy Zakh, deputy coordinator of activities in the territories.

Our correspondent 'Ofra Nehmad points out that prior to the war, 30,000 inhabitants of the territories had been employed in Israel, and only one-third had work permits.

King Praises Nation, Discusses Mideast Future*NC0103154291 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1202 GMT 1 Mar 91*

[Speech by King Husayn on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the 'Arabization' of the Jordanian Army, and to mark 'end of Gulf crisis'; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. O brother citizens; my dear sons and daughters; brother Arabs in every part of the great Arab World; brother Muslims in every corner of the world. I send you my best and most sincere greetings from a pure Arab heart, and a plain conscience that believes in the will of God. I have chosen this historic moment to talk to you and pause with you at two landmarks in the march of Jordan and its larger homeland, and of Jordanians and the great people to which they belong.

The first landmark is the 35th anniversary of the Arabization of our Arab army so that it may remain, as it has always been, an army for the country and the Arab people. The second landmark is the end of the Gulf crisis. Since the very beginning of that crisis, we have tried to keep it from entering the dark tunnel that it entered on 2 August 1990 and up to this day, when the last page was turned in one of the most severe national crises experienced by the Arab nation—a crisis which we have all experienced.

I address everyone who lives in the honorable Arab land: men and women, old and young, Muslim and Christian, civilian and military. I address every Arab and Muslim who lived the successive phases of the tragedy in his mind, emotions, and thoughts, and who came to deal with a reality that was beyond his control.

I address you, brother Jordanians, to say that we all have the right to hold our heads high. Our heads have not bowed to anyone but God. Our vision from the beginning of the first chapter of the tragedy was clear and unambiguous. We understood the extent to which matters could develop if Iraq continued to occupy Kuwait, and if we failed to resolve the problem by peaceful means and in an Arab framework.

We tried our best to contain the problem in its early stages and throughout the period preceding the war. Out of our concern for the higher pan-Arab interest and our commitment to lofty principles, we sought to find a solution and avert the catastrophe. But our efforts did not succeed. I do not want to go into the details of the tragic story; you know it very well, because you lived its chapters. But I would like to remind you that the curtains have been closed on the last scene, and that the promises of a new dawn await.

I am fully aware that many of us in Jordan, and many people of our Arab and Islamic nation, will hold with them painful memories—even as they look toward the future—that may turn into hatred or grudges, if nurtured

or unleashed. But living nations can forget pain and bad memories and learn as they move toward the future, having aspirations and hopes, and preventing their painful memories from blocking their march or paralyzing their thinking. Living nations emerge from the rubble, dust themselves off, and evoke from the bitter experience a sharper determination, stronger confidence, and greater resolve to resume normal life and create a brighter future.

You all know that as a result of this catastrophe, Jordan was the country most hurt, after Iraq and Kuwait. Our economy was blockaded; our exports were diminished, and we were involved in the battle against our will. Tourism to our country came to a halt, and our airspace was closed. The return of our workers from Kuwait added to our financial and economic burdens. The standard of living for hundreds of thousands of our people dropped to below the poverty line, and unemployment rose to unprecedented rates. Our trucks transporting oil from Iraq were attacked. Without this oil, not only will the wheel of our economy stop, but also our ability to provide drinking water, which requires energy to pump it from various sources.

On top of all this, we have tried our best to be at the top state of readiness to defend the homeland. This took effect at all levels. We mobilized the Armed Forces, called up the reservists, trained and prepared the popular army, and secured our needs for foodstuffs and other supplies. Meanwhile, we harbored no hatred toward anyone and blamed no one, because we knew that we had to pay a high price in order to maintain our national stance and free will, and also in view of our geographic location.

Gloating and trading blame are not among the traits of the Arabs or their spiritual values, for such practices breed hatred, division, and repulsion. Forgiving and forgetting the past, however, are the means to heal the wounds and restore unity in the ranks of the nation.

Let us rely on God and begin a new chapter in our life with everyone resolved to have an honest and genuine intention for reconciliation, understanding, and rapprochement to remove skepticism and suspicions and all causes of conflict, to establish inter-Arab relations based on the fear of God, mutual confidence, loyalty to our nation's aspirations and future generations to live in freedom, security, peace, and stability and to continue efforts toward progress and strength within the framework of its pan-Arab character and Islamic values.

Let us begin the new chapter by praising God almighty that the Gulf war has ended, the bleeding has stopped, and that the Kuwaiti people have returned to enjoy their independence. Let us pray to God that this will be the last of inter-Arab fighting, and that He will guide them to the virtuous path of right, justice, fraternity, cooperation, and amity.

As I say this, a fast-forwarded tape crowded with images passes through my mind. On this day, the fraternal

Kuwaiti people are happy and joyous at returning to their homeland and at having their independence restored. We are happy for them, and share their happiness. As for fraternal Iraq, it is treating its wounds and sufferings. We sympathize with it, its people and Army, its Arabs and Kurds, its Sunnis and Shiites, in every city, village, and bedouin encampment. Our concern to safeguard it, its religion and history, is a trust we must keep. We will stand by its side and support it as it aspires to rebuild its country and heal its wounds. We say to all our Iraqi brothers: We will not forget you and will not forget the Iraqi assistance which we received in our days of adversity. On this day we see a new Arab epoch and the beginning of a new era between Iraq and Kuwait: the era of reconciliation and reconstruction in the two fraternal states. Today is the time for transforming sorrow and pain into hope, resolve, and determination. Today is the time for contemplation and self-exploration to heal bleeding wounds, revive pan-Arab reunion, and the establishment of firm and solid bases to build the aspired-for future for our coming generations. The nation did not start with us, and will not end with us. It is the day for considering how to rejuvenate our regional Arab order, and how to modernize it to make it more able to address our problems and deal with the challenges faced by our nation. It is the day of determination to rebuild our pan-Arab power, restore our self-confidence, and safeguard our values and beliefs. It is the day on which all should move toward resolving their disputes, particularly border disputes, so that our nation will not find itself confronted with fighting which would lead to its annihilation and destruction.

On this day we should embark on serious thinking to integrate development and construction abilities within a framework of cooperation and eagerness for maintaining our human and natural resources and unleashing the energies of our nation. On this day we should see the intertwining of the interests of world nations, integration among peoples, and the need to correctly coexist with the world, enjoying its accomplishments through equal dealing, and endeavoring to please God and respect the trust of the coming generations.

On this day, we should not overlook the sight of the Palestinian people while they writhe in their pain and look forward for their day of salvation when they feel the joy that the Kuwaiti people are experiencing now. The Palestinian people are looking to the world, which has so stringently applied international legitimacy in the issue of the occupation of Kuwait, and are hoping that it will show the same firmness and stringency in the application of international legitimacy for their humane and national problem without delay.

It has been said that the Palestinians felt happy at the fall of missiles on Israel. If they felt this way, should the world not ask itself why? I ask the Israelis—leadership and people—to look carefully into this phenomenon. The Palestinians are just like all other human beings; their humanity dictates that they love life, well-being, and peace—for themselves and for others. It is not

possible to separate their reaction to those missiles from world negligence of their ongoing suffering—a suffering that has begun to erode their humanity. Their joy is nothing but a reflection of their deeply felt pain and their fatal despair at the justice of the world community after having long waited to attain their freedom and enjoy their right to a dignified life.

On this day, we once again call on the world to deal with the Palestinian issue in the same way it dealt with the issue of Kuwait. We also wish to tell the world that we are committed to working for a just and lasting peace that respects the national rights of the Palestinian people on their national soil, foremost among these being their right to self-determination and to representing themselves in any peace process for [resolving] the Arab-Israeli conflict.

These two rights are the basis for reaching a lasting peace, and for establishing the regional stability that everyone wishes for—we, as much as our friends, who are concerned with the crisis and the international community—on the basis of all the noble norms and with the application of all the accepted international values, with the same enthusiasm and commitment.

On this day, we also wish to call attention to the ever-increasing gap between the poor and rich countries in this region, for that gap threatens to cause successive social and political crises if left without systematic and well-planned treatment. The treatment of that gap should be seen as a basis for regional stability and world peace rather than a matter of giving alms or charity.

In our opinion—this means much—most importantly, that the world deal with our region on a basis of this being an integral region, rather than just on the basis of bilateral deals.

In this occasion, I would like to thank all those who stood beside us in this crisis and understood our principled stand, our preference for peace, and our commitment to the settlement of problems by peaceful means. We would also like to assure the entire world that the doors of Jordan are wide open for all those who want to establish amicable relations with us, relations that are based on mutual respect and cooperation for the common benefit of all. Jordan is extending its hand to anyone who wishes to meet us with the same warmth and honor with which we deal with others.

We are certain that "the scum disappears, like froth cast out; while that which is for the good of mankind remains on the earth." [Koranic verse]

As ever, Jordan will be there for its [Arab] nation, extending cooperation to all for the common good of all. Jordan has never relinquished that line and never will, with God's help.

As for us here in Jordan, we are proud of our democratic experiment, which throughout this crisis has been an element of the coherence of the national fabric and has

underscored our people's awareness and their concern for the public good, as well as their keen sense of developments around them, within a framework of national and pan-Arab responsibility. We can rightly congratulate ourselves on the democratic road that we seek to deepen and entrench.

At the outset of the new phase, in which we prepare ourselves to resume the march of development, we will put forward the National Charter to receive the national blessing in order for us to be guided by it to regulate and organize our blessed march, God willing, and so that we may reinforce solidarity and cooperation among all in the service of homeland and nation alike.

Our historic national responsibility is to make available the elements of the success of our experiment, in the hope that it may be a potential model for our brethren in other Arab states as they strive to expand the base of popular participation in running their affairs.

We in Jordan are confident that the Arab peoples are now closer to cohesion and harmony than the recent crisis suggested. The Arab peoples are capable of triumphing over the factors of division and disintegration, the consequences of which we warned about and still warn. Popular participation within the framework of democratic institutions is bound to keep open the lines of communication among peoples, just as responsible freedom, respect for human rights, and protection of man's dignity represent the guarantees that keep decisionmakers from sliding into errors.

We regard the prevalence of the adoption of a democratic course among our Arab states as a shield protecting the nation from degenerating into dispute and infighting. We also see in it the sure means for the nation to keep bridges open on acceptable bases to make accessible its hopes for integration, strength, progress and affluence.

That ye dislike a thing which is good for you, and that ye love a thing which is bad for you. But God knoweth, and ye know not. [Koranic verses]

Foreign Minister Welcomes Cease-Fire in Gulf

NC2802130991 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has said that Jordan welcomes the cessation of military operations in Iraq. He expressed hope that this would lead to a cease-fire being discussed at the Security Council in a way that will lead to a permanent settlement of the crisis in the Gulf. He said that since the onset of the Gulf crisis, Jordan has constantly called for refraining from resorting to force and for the need for a peaceful solution. He voiced hope that the Arab nation will be able to heal its wounds and look to the future with hope and confidence in its abilities to unify ranks and continue the march to serve its interests and future generation's.

Source Denies Post-August Arms Shipment to Iraq

NC2802205191 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] An official Jordanian source has categorically denied that Jordan sent arms to Iraq after the eruption of the Gulf crisis in early August 1990. The denial followed reports by international news agencies that the U.S. and allied forces in Iraq had discovered weapons that Jordan allegedly sent to Iraq immediately after a world embargo was imposed on that country. The weapons referred to include RPG launchers, bombs, mortar cannons, and different types of ammunition.

The Jordanian authorities had previously stated that in accordance with arrangements made through an agreement with Iraq and Saudi Arabia, Jordan, acting on behalf of Iraq, bought quantities of weapons from China in 1981 in a deal that included the aforementioned weapons. The weapons were delivered to the Iraqi authorities through the Saudi port of al-Qadimah and in cooperation with the Saudi Armed Forces; this happened during the Iraq-Iran war. It is worth mentioning that during that period there was Arab cooperation, especially between Jordan and Saudi Arabia, to help Iraq meet its military needs.

Jordan is astonished that such news has been disseminated in such a manner, without checking, scrutinizing, or putting things into context. Jordan conclusively reaffirms that it has not provided any weapons or military equipment to Iraq since the eruption of the Gulf crisis.

State Asks U.S. To Shield Jordanians in Kuwait

NC2802211991 Paris AFP in English 2047 GMT
28 Feb 91

[Text] Amman, Feb 28 (AFP)—Jordan, which maintained close ties with Iraq during the Gulf crisis, has asked the United States to shield its nationals residing in Kuwait against possible revenge attacks from Kuwaitis, authoritative sources said here Thursday. The request was conveyed to Washington through U.S. ambassador Roger Harrison, the sources said.

The authorities here are concerned that Jordanians will face "acts of revenge" from Kuwaitis angered by Amman's Gulf policies, they said.

More than 400,000 Jordanians, most of them Palestinians, lived in Kuwait before the August 2 invasion. It is not known how many still reside in the liberated emirate.

Several Palestinian officials, including Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, recently voiced concern over the possibility of what they feared could be a "massacre" of Palestinians in Kuwait.

In Kuwait City, many residents have accused Palestinians of collaborating with the Iraqi Army.

House Speaker Meets Iraqi Assembly Official

NC2402203791 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic
1545 GMT 24 Feb 91

[Text] Amman, 24 Feb (PETRA)—House of Representatives Speaker Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyyat received Iraqi National Assembly Deputy Speaker Ghanim 'Aziz and his delegation at his office today.

The discussion focused on the latest developments in the aggression launched by America and its allies against Iraq following the start of the ground battle this morning, as well as the nature of the requirements for an Arab position to confront the aggression, and the practical methods and ways, especially in the area of mobilizing Arab and Islamic public opinion, to counter the ferocious aggressive campaign. The talks also dealt with the Arab parliamentary conference to be held in Algiers on Monday, and the resolutions and recommendations this conference needs to issue to be in line with the nature of the stage through which the nation is passing.

The two sides expressed the hope that the conference will take a serious stand against the aggression, especially after exposing its flagrant objectives, malignant intentions, and criminal schemes.

Ghanim 'Aziz stated that the land aggression of the coalition's forces of evil and tyranny against the Iraqi Armed Forces had not been a remote possibility but had been within the calculations of the Iraqi leadership.

In a statement to reporters after the meeting, 'Aziz said the forces of aggression miscalculated in their estimate of the steadfastness of Iraq and misjudged their capability to undermine Iraq. He noted that their calculations were based in terms of hours and days, but after more than 35 days Iraq remains steadfast.

'Aziz stressed that the days and events will prove that they erred in their calculations in the ground offensive, as they did in their air campaign, that as a result of their aggression they will suffer the gravest casualties, and that they will certainly be repulsed. He noted that Iraq had made the necessary preparations in terms of power and capability, and that the will of the faithful men in the Iraqi Armed Forces who are standing firmly in the frontlines will not accept anything short of victory or martyrdom.

'Aziz praised the courage of the leadership, government, and people of Jordan alongside Iraq. He stressed that it is a genuine Arab stand that will serve as a firm foundation to build a noble Arab nation in the future. It also serves as a model in view of the genuine humane feelings it embodies. He noted that words cannot describe this courageous stand.

Regarding his and his delegation's visit to Jordan, he said: We are on our way to Algiers to attend the Arab Parliamentary Union conference which will start tomorrow in the Algerian capital.

He added: We met with House of Representatives Speaker Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyyat and members of the parliament's Emergency Committee. We discussed the latest developments and the unjust aggression on Iraq, especially after the allied forces announced the start of the ground aggression on Iraq and its forces.

He noted that during the discussions and debate, it became evident to him that viewpoints were identical, especially regarding the need to escalate the Arab position against the oppressive forces, particularly after their aggressive intentions were revealed following the peace initiative announced by Iraq's Revolution Command Council on 15 February which included a just solution to the problem of Kuwait, the Arabian Gulf, and the region. The devious intentions and imperialist schemes, designed by Zionism and implemented by the U.S. Administration under the cover of legitimate Security Council resolutions, did not make it possible. He declared that the scheme has become exposed and clear now since the issue is no longer described as the liberation of Kuwait or the establishment of peace in the Gulf and the Middle East. It has now become more a matter of the destruction of Iraq's military and material capabilities and of robbing the Arab nation of its will, represented by Iraq's stand against this fierce attack and its demands for the rights of Palestine and the Palestinian people, as well as retrieving the usurped lands.

Mr. 'Aziz said that during the Arab Parliamentary Union's conference in Algiers he will present the Iraqi delegation's draft proposal. The Jordanian parliament will also present a working paper to the conference. He pointed out that there is agreement in principle on the general framework of this working paper.

10,000 Demonstrate in Solidarity With Iraq

JN0103091191 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
1 Mar 91 p 3

["Special" to JORDAN TIMES by Sirin Halasa]

[Text] Amman—Around 10,000 people marched through the streets of Amman Thursday, in a show of solidarity with Iraq. It was the single biggest pro-Iraq rally held in Jordan since the eruption of the war in the Gulf on Jan. 17.

The demonstrators carried banners that supported the steadfastness of the Iraqi people in the face of the heavy bombardment and ground attacks by the 30-member, U.S.-led coalition against Iraq.

The mood of the demonstrators was jubilant as they hailed and welcomed the call for ceasefire by U.S. President George Bush. "The United States was forced to accept a ceasefire because it suffered many casualties. It is a victory for Iraq, because the ceasefire was attained under Iraqi conditions," Nabil 'Allan, an engineer, contended. He also added that Iraq's stand for forty days in the face of "aggression" by the allies is proof of victory.

On the other hand, some people were more cautious in their reaction towards the ceasefire. "I don't think this is the end. On the contrary, this is the beginning of a very dangerous stage in this conflict. I believe this is a truce not a total ceasefire," Muhammad Talib told the Jordan Times. He attributed his scepticism to the fact that it was a decision taken by George Bush and not the United Nations Security Council. "Usually when you have a ceasefire, the U.N. Security Council is the one that orders it," Talib said.

Another demonstrator, Rusdhi 'Alqam, said that he believed the United States made a grave mistake by following the withdrawing Iraqi forces into their territories. "Now the Iraqis are fighting for their sovereignty and are more willing to sacrifice in order to maintain their integrity," he said. "American penetration into Iraqi territory is aimed at occupying this territory and using it as a bargaining chip against the Iraqis," 'Alqam added.

A professor in political science, Dr. Shihadah 'Abd al-Hafiz, said that the Iraqis became convinced when the Americans entered their borders that "the aim of the aggressors was not to liberate Kuwait but to destroy Iraq's military, economic and social infrastructures." "Destroying Iraq is part of America's new world order," he said. "I think that Saddam's acceptance of all 12 U.N. resolutions put the U.S. in a very tight spot. Now they have to tackle the Palestinian problem; they can no longer ignore it."

"Saddam revived the Palestinian problem, and established the spirit of jihad," Ibrahim 'Atiyah, a student at the University of Jordan said. "He broke the myth that Israel was untouchable, and brought the Palestinian cause into the limelight," he added.

The demonstration was organised by Jordanian professional association and labour unions.

Some demonstrators were glad that hostilities were over, but showed disappointment with the role of some Arab nations in the region. "We could have taken this chance to solve all the outstanding problems in the region if some Arab nations played a more active role and joined hands with Iraq," a young demonstrator who withheld his name said.

Gulf Peace Team Delivers Petition to U.S. Envoy

NC2702123891 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
27 Feb 91 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Members of the Gulf Peace Team delivered a "petition for peace" to the American embassy in Amman Tuesday.

The brief statement calling for an... "Immediate end to the bombing of Iraq and Kuwait..." was signed by Gulf Peace Team members representing ten countries: Belgium, Canada, France, India, Ireland, New Zealand, Romania, Scotland, Britain and the United States.

The one-page statement was hand delivered at 4:23 p.m. inside the American embassy by Gulf Peace Team members Andrew P. Jones from Boston, Massachusetts; Ruhe Irwin from Washington D.C. and Kathy Kelly from Chicago, Illinois. It was received by Virginia Murray council [as published] officer at the U.S. embassy.

The delivery of the "petition for peace" was accompanied by an hour-long peaceful demonstration by placard-carrying members, of the Gulf Peace Team. The demonstration took place in front of the American embassy.

The Gulf Peace Team is an international, multicultural, nonaligned group of individuals committed to peace and justice in the Gulf region.

Oil Shipment Arrives From Yemen

NC2802154791 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
28 Feb 91 p 1

[Text] The Jordanian ship al-Azraq has arrived at the port of al-Aqabah from the port of Salif in Hudaydah, fraternal Republic of Yemen, laden with 100,000 tons of crude oil, equivalent to 700,000 barrels.

The ship, which is on its maiden voyage, was scheduled to anchor at the port of al-Aqabah's oil platform at dawn yesterday.

The \$7.5 million ship was purchased by the Jordanian Government and added to the fleet of the Jordanian National Shipping Lines Company.

Paper Reports Capture, 'Massacre' of Egyptians

NC2802162991 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU'
in Arabic 28 Feb 91 pp 1, 23

[Text] AKHBAR AL-USBU' has learned from informed sources in Baghdad and Kuwait that the Iraqi forces have captured 1,613 Egyptian soldiers, including officers of various ranks. Another 3,000 soldiers were killed.

An informed source told AKHBAR AL-USBU' about the details of the operation that took place in the early hours of the allied attack on the Iraqi forces stationed between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. The Iraqi forces cleared a 3-km-wide opening in their defense lines and planted mines in this area. When the Egyptian forces began to penetrate the first Iraqi defense lines, they found themselves in the midst of fields of exploding mines and the massacre began.

The sources add that at least 80 tanks, 96 tracked vehicles, and more than 50 armored vehicles were destroyed completely, as were other heavy weapons, including field artillery pieces.

Some of the captured soldiers, who were taken to camps in Iraq, said they had not wanted to participate in the war, but President Husni Mubarak sent his defense minister, General Sabri Abu-Talib, to persuade them to change their minds. Abu-Talib asked them to join in the war, which he said would be quick and easy. He also

promised that every soldier and officer who took part in the war would receive a generous reward in the form of a fully furnished apartment, a payment of 50,000 pounds, and an important official job.

Iraq 'Triumphed' Over 'Aggression Alliance'

NC2802164891 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B
in Arabic 28 Feb 91 p 1

[Editorial: "God Is Great and Iraq Has Triumphed"]

[Text] Iraq has triumphed. Iraq—its Army, people, and leadership—has triumphed against 30 countries led by the United States with a display of splendid steadfastness and unique and epic defiance.

Iraq remained steadfast and endured the ugliest economic blockade in history.

Iraq remained steadfast in the face of the fiercest crusader-Zionist-Atlantic campaign and fought the fiercest battles in history for more than seven weeks against the forces of 30 vengeful countries.

Iraq—its Army, people, and leadership—gave a unique display of heroism which stunned the aggressors, frustrated the objectives of the aggression alliance, and crushed the remnants of its defeated forces, compelling the aggression forces to abandon new adventures. Iraq has also sown panic among them as it has sown despair among the leaderships of the countries involved in the aggression alliance against Iraq. Bush and his allies were

thus compelled to accept a cease-fire and abandon their hostile objectives and schemes against proud Iraq.

What is important is that Iraq has succeeded in denying any opportunities to the aggression alliance and in shattering the dreams of Bush and his alliance of destroying Baghdad and other Iraqi cities and Iraq's military power. Iraq has retained its full strength and its advanced military forces.

The heroism and sacrifices of the brave Iraqi people forced Bush and his allies to retreat and to abandon their evil intentions against Iraq and the people of Iraq. Iraq remains a growing power to be reckoned with in the region and the world.

What is important is that the Arab awakening project led by Iraq remains healthy and capable of thwarting attempts to implement the new order for the Arab region envisioned by Bush and his Zionist allies.

Thus, the will of the brave Iraqis has triumphed over the deceitful and reactionary crusader-Zionism campaign.

A thousand greetings to the proud Iraqi people, their heroic Army, and their unique leadership.

A thousand greetings to the honorable Arabs who stood on the side of Iraq in its brave confrontation against the brutal crusader-Zionist-Atlantic aggression.

A thousand greetings to His Majesty King Husayn and the heroic Jordanian people who stood on the side of fraternal Iraq and fully measured up to their responsibility to support it.

Al-Hirawi Returns From Damascus, Reviews Talks

Gulf War Effects Discussed

NC2802071691 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0530 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Excerpts] President Ilyas al-Hirawi returned to Beirut from Damascus yesterday evening. [passage omitted]

Following al-Hirawi's return to Beirut, the Presidential General Directorate's information department issued the following statement: President Ilyas al-Hirawi held a lengthy working session with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. They discussed the outcome of the Gulf war and its effects on both Syria and Lebanon, particularly the situation in southern Lebanon in light of the recent Lebanese Army deployment in the region and the steps required to implement Security Council Resolution 425. The discussions also dealt with other Lebanese issues, particularly the Greater Beirut plan and implementation of all articles outlined in the national accord document. President al-Asad showed interest in the peace process in Lebanon and promised that Syria will continue to provide all forms of aid. The views were identical on all issues discussed.

Al-Asad: Events 'Positive' for Nation

NC0103072791 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0530 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] Amid the current situation, preparations are under way to enlarge the area of Army deployment to reach the internationally acknowledged borders in cooperation with UN forces to prepare for the post-Gulf war stage. There is satisfaction over the results of the Lebanese-Syrian summit between Presidents al-Hirawi and al-Asad.

President al-Asad frankly told President al-Hirawi that the events of the Gulf crisis will not hamper the course of national reconciliation in Lebanon. The effect of these events will be positive for the total situation in Lebanon, especially regarding the legitimate initiative to solve pending issues.

Their discussions also centered on the need to be firm in applying the Greater Beirut plan.

President al-Asad also expressed satisfaction over the deployment of the Army in the South and the western al-Biq'a'. He congratulated the government and President al-Hirawi on this achievement while confirming

that there is no problem about enlarging the area of Army deployment. He added that Syria will support each step of this kind.

The two presidents discussed securing the entry of the Lebanese Army into the international forces' operations area in the South. President al-Hirawi declared that the Army leadership is now working to prepare two battalions to send them to the South to deploy alongside the international forces.

Supreme Defense Council Meets; Decisions 'Secret'

NC0103075591 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0530 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] Domestically, the most important detail is the meeting of the Supreme Defense Council yesterday under the chairmanship of President Ilyas al-Hirawi. The Council recommended that new practical steps be taken to improve the political and security situation in general and deal with economic and social issues.

It is to be noted that this meeting comes after the Lebanese-Syrian summit yesterday. Participating in the meeting were Prime Minister Karami and Ministers al-Murr, Buwayz, al-Khalil, Hammadi, and al-Khatib. No statement was issued on behalf of the meeting.

Prime Minister Karami merely stated that they had discussed defense affairs and strengthening the geographic borders of Greater Beirut.

Minister al-Murr said: We discussed the security situation in the country in light of the latest developments in the region and at home. I cannot give further details since the decisions of the Supreme Defense Council remain secret. He said: The concerned ministers, minister of hydroelectric resources and minister of state for transport affairs, are expected to take the practical steps. The Army is now in the port.

Prior to the meeting, President al-Hirawi and Prime Minister Karami met privately to evaluate the results of the Lebanese-Syrian talks in Damascus.

Explosions Reported Near Kuwaiti Offices

NC2802163491 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1445 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Concerning security in Greater Beirut, there have been three explosions. The first took place in al-Hamrah near the Kuwaiti Airlines and Kuwait-Lebanon Bank building, the second in the Fulayfil building in Hubaysh area, and the third in al-Hadath where a bomb was hurled at a Lebanese Army soldier.

Al-Asad Phones Fahd, Kuwaiti Official on Gulf

*NC2802185491 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1730 GMT
28 Feb 91*

[Text] Damascus, 28 Feb (SANA)—His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad held separate telephone conversations today with King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, custodian of the two holy mosques, and with Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait.

The two conversations revolved around the past stage and the developments which took place during that period. Satisfaction was expressed over the restoration of Kuwait and the end of fighting, but extreme regret was also expressed over the losses that took place, losses that could have been avoided. The three leaders noted that they wished these losses had been avoided as a result of the efforts that were exerted.

They also stressed the need to learn from these events and to apply these lessons in the future to spare the nation any new mistakes and to keep the road open for Arab solidarity and cooperation in the interest of the Arab nation and its pan-Arab causes, security, safety, and sound inter-Arab relations.

His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad conveyed congratulations to Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

Phoned by Qatari Amir

*NC0103065191 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0515 GMT 1 Mar 91*

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad yesterday received a telephone call from Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar. They discussed the situation in the Gulf.

Al-Asad, Spanish King Discuss War Aftermath

*NC0103065691 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0515 GMT 1 Mar 91*

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad last night received a telephone call from King Juan Carlos of Spain. The conversation revolved around the situation in the Gulf region after the end of the fighting. King Juan Carlos voiced Spain's appreciation of Syria's position and role in the region. He also voiced Spain's interest in achieving peace and playing a constructive role to strengthen peace and stability in the region. The president thanked him and stressed the historical ties of Syria and the Arabs with Spain.

Al-Shar' Views Western Ties, Regional Issues

PM2802162491

[Editorial Report] London BBC Television Network in English at 1945 GMT on 26 February during the "Assignment" program, narrated by Olenka Frenkiel, carries remarks by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. At the start of the program al-Shar' says: "We aspire to have genuine security and stability in the region after the Gulf crisis is over."

The program suggests that Syria is unwilling to admit that its position with respect to the West is moving away from that of other Middle Eastern countries. Al-Shar' comments: "Syria has always sought a good and sound relationship with the Western countries. This is not a new thing. If we didn't succeed in the past, it is not because of us, but it is because there was not sufficient understanding to our position and to our real desire for a comprehensive and just peace in the region."

With regard to President al-Asad's political control in Lebanon, after the removal of General 'Awn, and supposed U.S. backing for this as a "payoff" for Syria's good behavior in the Gulf, al-Shar' comments: "What was the payoff for Syria? In fact we have never dealt with the Lebanese problem for any territorial ambitions. We have sent our Army to Lebanon in order to help the Lebanese maintain their state. We made tremendous sacrifices in Lebanon, to stick the pieces of Lebanon together, to maintain its unity, and to have a strong central government in Beirut capable of spreading its authority around Lebanon."

On the threat of anti-Gulf war demonstrations in Syria, al-Shar' says: "There was not a single small demonstration even in Syria—but they understand our position exactly as I am interpreting it, not as it is misinterpreted in the West. We are not siding with Iraq against Kuwait; we are siding with Kuwait, because Kuwait was the state that was invaded by Iraq. So we just stood firm against the Iraqi invasion."

With regard to Israel's leaving the occupied territories, al-Shar' says: "If the Americans are sincere in shaping a new international order after the Gulf crisis, then it is imperative that they should work forcefully to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict and to implement UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. If you want to implement that, the international conference for peace in the Middle East is the appropriate framework to do that. The United States so far—and it was obvious when President al-Asad met with President Bush in Geneva... President Bush confirmed that the United States is not against the convening of an international conference for peace in the Middle East at the appropriate time."

Prime Minister Receives Kuwait Amir's Envoy

*NC2802214191 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1753 GMT
28 Feb 91*

[Text] Damascus, 28 Feb (SANA)—Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi this afternoon received Shaykh Nasir Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, representative of the amir of Kuwait, accompanied by Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Jasim, Kuwait's ambassador in Damascus.

During the meeting, Shaykh Nasir expressed profound thanks to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, the Syrian Government, and the Syrian people on his own behalf and on behalf of the Kuwaiti community in Syria, which was accorded generous and brotherly hospitality during the ordeal of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

He said the Kuwaiti community highly appreciates the stand of Syria—its president, government, and people—through which it manifested its pan-Arab and principled policy and asserted the concepts of pan-Arab brotherhood between Syria and Kuwait and between Syria and all Arabs.

Al-Zu'bi thanked Shaykh Nasir, affirming that in all its stands in the Arab and international arenas, Syria under President Hafiz al-Asad always proceeds from pan-Arab and constant principles in accordance with a sound political vision. He said Syria always and under all circumstances works to bolster Arab cooperation and solidarity with a view to serving the higher interests of the Arab nation.

The talks also dealt with the promotion of the existing brotherly relations between Syria and Kuwait as well as a number of other issues of common interest.

Kuwaitis Hail 'Al-Asad's Syria' for 'Major Role'

NC0103073791 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0515 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] Shaykh Nasir al-Sabah al-Ahmad has hailed the position of al-Asad's Syria on the question of the State of Kuwait which played a major role in regaining Kuwait's freedom from the Iraqi regime. During a meeting with Kuwaiti citizens residing in Syria, Shaykh Nasir said: We must always remember the brothers who helped and backed us, contributed to the liberation of our land, and insisted on supporting right and our cause. Shaykh Nasir said the arrangements for a return home will be announced in about a week. The announcement will explain the means of return, especially since public services are now being offered to the citizenry.

Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Jasim, Kuwaiti ambassador to Syria and Lebanon, extended greetings to the honorable Arab leaders, headed by struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, who took a glorious stand in which the most splendid meaning of heroism, courage, and genuine Arab chivalry were demonstrated, as well as the ethics and morals that are based on firm principles, from which he never deviates. His Excellency President al-Asad and the great people of Syria were the backers of Kuwait in achieving victory.

He said: Kuwait has returned free, proud, and independent to renew the ties of amity and peace with its Arab sisters and other friendly countries on the basis of good-neighborliness, mutual respect, and development assistance to the sisterly and friendly states for the prosperity of the citizen and the welfare of humanity. He asserted that Kuwait is now living its most beautiful days as it celebrates its national day and the day of victory, with the support and love of the brothers and friends who backed it during its ordeal.

Italian Official Delivers Andreotti Message

Received by Al-Asad

NC2802185591 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1620 GMT
28 Feb 91

[Text] Damascus, 28 Feb (SANA)—His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Italian Assistant Foreign Minister Claudio Linoci at 1330 today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Italian ambassador in Damascus.

Linoci conveyed to his excellency the president a message from Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti. His excellency the president asked Linoci to convey a reply message.

Discussions revolved around bilateral relations and prospects for promoting them. Discussions also dealt with the situation in the region in light of recent developments in the Gulf crisis.

Envoy Notes Talks, Departs

NC2802215091 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1905 GMT
28 Feb 91

[Text] Damascus, 28 Feb (SANA)—Italian Assistant Foreign Minister Claudio Linoci and his delegation left Damascus this evening after visiting Syria for several days.

Linoci made a predeparture statement to a SANA correspondent in which he expressed happiness at meeting and holding important talks with President Hafiz al-Asad on current bilateral relations and regional issues, especially the Gulf war.

The Italian assistant foreign minister praised Syria's policy and contribution to regional stability. He indicated that views have been identical on a number of joint issues between Syria and Italy.

Linoci stressed that bilateral relations have been promoted and improved in various agricultural, economic, and cultural fields, especially after the setting up of a joint Syrian-Italian committee.

Concluding his statement, he said that his country supports a comprehensive solution to the Palestine question through consultations among all concerned parties and by opposing the policy of partial or separate solutions. He regarded the Palestine question as the most important issue that must be addressed after the Gulf war.

Linoci was seen off at Damascus International Airport by 'Abd-al-Rahim Subay'i, assistant planning minister; Muhammad Khadr, director of the West Europe Department at the Foreign Ministry; Su'ad al-'Abdallah, Syrian charge d'affaires in Rome; and the Italian ambassador in Damascus.

Paper Details Local Administration Law

NC2702124291 Damascus SYRIA TIMES in English
17 Feb 91 p 5

[Report by B. Sati]

[Text] The convening of the Local Administration Council election soon all over Syria's governorates is a perpetuation of the goals set by Legislative Decree No. 15 dated May 11, 1971 and its modifications No. 12 dated June 6, 1971. The LA [Local Administration] law announces the beginning of a new era governed by popular democracy at all levels.

The LA law seeks to shift power into the masses hand, establish administrative units to look after economic, services and cultural issues, rely less on the central authorities and more on the administrative units, pledge more efforts to develop society, and widen the authority of the units.

LA representatives stand for peasants, workers, artisans, teachers students, youth, women, physicians, pharmacists, engineers, agronomists, lawyers, dentists, literary figures and journalists. Around 60 percent of the LA seats should be occupied by peasants, workers, artisans and low-income tradesmen. LA elections will be held each four years. The LA law also defines the LA participation in the fields of industry, agriculture, supply and external trade, culture and education, society, services, and security and order.

In the sphere of industry, the LA has set out to introduce new techniques and technology, encourage private investment, back the establishment of new industries according to the availability of the required raw materials, supporting handicrafts and encouraging the establishments of cooperatives.

In the pursuit to promote agriculture the LA takes all the necessary measures to meet the demand of agricultural products in the local market as well as to encourage the introduction of new techniques to increase all agriculture-related products.

In the field of provision and internal trade the LA exercise direct control on the activities of provision and internal trade in the governorates, with the objective of making all basic commodities available to citizens. Consolidating steps to encourage the establishment of consumer cooperatives, to fix prices and to combat monopoly and smuggling.

Concerning culture and education, the LA supervise the execution of laws regarding the development of education in each governorate. The LA encourages expertise exchange among state organs, the eradication of illiteracy and the convening of multi-sided cultural and artistic activities. In construction of and supervision of libraries, museums, theatres, cultural centres and rehabilitation centres as well as sponsoring fine arts activities are among the tasks of the LA in this regard.

Sponsoring youth activities, creativity, land charity activities are among the social objectives of LA. In the field of

services, the LA exerts immense efforts to supply governorates with water, electricity, sewage networks, and medical equipment. The LA seeks to preserve the water resources clean as well as to help build new dams, roads and bridges. The establishment of medical centres, mother-care centres and state premises is also sought by the LA.

In the sphere of security and order, the LA has set out to urge people to follow the rules, participate in combating crime and help protect public properties. Maintaining transport safety and consolidating civil defence rules are also targeted by the LA. However, the LA is also active in other spheres, including the city and municipal councils, the city and municipal executive bureaus and the village or rural unit councils.

According to Article No. 36 the City or Municipal Council works within the general framework of the state policy in order to develop the governorate or municipal in question. The council supervise all activities of state organs in a municipal or city. It ratifies municipal services projects, helps the governorate council in running social, educational, cultural, health, supply and economic projects it also supervises the establishment of utilities, cooperatives as well as the laying of traffic rules and public welfare. The Council also takes the proper measures to boost children's sport and creativity, preserve national antiquities, establish more theatres and libraries, and lessen the burden forced upon the central authority, namely, the governorate.

Regarding the Municipal or City Executive Bureau, the LA has given the Bureau the rights to supervise the works of water and transport companies, issue building licences, running public properties and utilities.

In compliance with Article No. 38 the Executive Bureau is authorized to abrogate construction licences and organizational plans as well as to combat building violations.

In compliance with Article No. 39 the Bureau supervises the making of the municipal or city organizational plans as well as the documentation of resulting rules and decisions. According to article No. 40 the Bureau has the right to supervise measures to eradicate building violations. The cutting of trees without a licence is also a crime to be combatted by the Bureau. In collaboration with the police, the Bureau's members are authorized to combat all sorts of crimes.

Regarding the village or Rural Unit Council, the LA stressed that the task of that Council is similar to that of the city or municipality. The Council proposes agricultural plans for the village and finance the establishment of peasants cooperatives. It also helps in the implementation of the governorate general agricultural policy.

In most cases the Council represents and implements the resolutions of the village council as well as guide the implementation of cultural, social, supply and health policies there. The Council also supervises the execution of the state agricultural plan in the village, the observing of building regulations and the assisting in administrative work.

Afghanistan**Prime Minister Meets Soviet Delegations**

LD2702231491 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Text] The prime minister's press office reported that esteemed Fazl Haq Khaleqyar, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, met in his office this afternoon the high-ranking Soviet parliamentary and government delegations that came to Kabul to take part in the ceremony marking the 70th anniversary of signing the Afghan-Soviet friendship and cooperation treaty.

Present at this meeting were Boris Nikolayevich Pastukhov, ambassador and representative extraordinary of the Soviet Union in Kabul; the delegation of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Supreme Soviet, headed by Boris Mikhaylovich Isayev, deputy chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet; and the delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet, headed by Viktor Vladimirovich Yakushkin, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet and deputy head of the Supreme Soviet committee on international military affairs [as heard]. They were introduced to the esteemed prime minister.

In a speech, esteemed Khaleqyar regarded the 70th anniversary of concluding the Afghan-Soviet friendship and cooperation treaty as a historic example of friendship between the two neighboring countries. He recalled the technical and economic cooperation of the Soviet Union with the people of Afghanistan.

Explaining the objectives and gains of the policy of national reconciliation and the passage from war to peace, the esteemed prime minister regarded the expansion and continuation of advantageous reciprocal economic and technical cooperation as being in the interests of the two countries. He added: By utilizing the broad economic possibilities, both neighboring countries can render beneficial, reciprocal, and productive cooperation.

The heads of the Soviet delegations then conveyed the greetings and best wishes of the Soviet leadership to esteemed Khaleqyar.

The high-ranking Soviet delegations expressed the interest of the people and government of the Soviet Union in the restoration of peace and the active participation of the USSR in the reconstruction of Afghanistan. They assured that the Soviet Union will assist the people of Afghanistan in solving economic issues.

At this meeting a message from USSR Prime Minister Pavlov on the 70th anniversary of concluding the Afghan-Soviet friendship and cooperation treaty, addressed to esteemed Khaleqyar, was handed over to the esteemed prime minister by Boris Nikolayevich Pastukhov, ambassador and representative extraordinary of the Soviet Union in Kabul. This was accepted with thanks.

Bangladesh**Nationalist Party Wins 140 Seats in Parliament**

BK0103020291 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 1 Mar 91

[All figures as heard]

[Excerpt] According to the latest unofficial results received from the election commission, the BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] has emerged as the single largest majority party with 140 seats out of 294; Nationalist Awami League 84; followed by Jatiya Party 35; Jamaat-i-Islami 18; CPB [Communist Party of Bangladesh] 5; BAKSAL [Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Awami League 4; Islami Oikya Jote 1; Ganotantrik Party 1; (?JSD-Siraj) [Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal-Siraj] 1; Workers Party 1; NAP [National Awami Party]-Muzaffar 1; and independents (?3). [passage omitted]

Awami League Chief Protests

BK0103015191 Hong Kong AFP in English
1828 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 28 (AFP)—Begum Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) strode back to power in the country's general election Thursday, a decade after it was ousted by a military coup.

Voters returned 140 BNP nominees to the 300-member parliament, triggering angry reactions from rival Sheikh Hasina Wajed whose Awami League could only manage 84 seats.

Votes will have to be recast in four constituencies, where voting was suspended in more than 20 polling stations, officials said without giving details.

"I do not concede defeat ... This result will not bring any good to the nation ... Go, see for yourself that violence has already erupted," said Sheikh Hasina as the final results became known.

BNP officials, however, were in an uncompromising mood.

"The league will have to acknowledge the people's mandate," said one BNP spokesman, as party activists splattered people with coloured water and ordered massive victory processions in several city districts.

Other seats went to the Awami League's minor partners, independents and smaller groups.

Ousted president Hussain Mohammad Ershad's Jatiya (National) Party won 35 seats.

Once her victory became clear, Begum Zia went to pray at the grave of her husband, former president Ziaur Rahman, who was assassinated in a 1981 military coup.

Begum Zia topped the polls in each of the five constituencies she contested, while Mr. Ershad scored the same number of victories in his hometown of Rangpur.

The BNP's performance fell short of the 151 seats needed for a majority in parliament and observers said much could depend on future political alliances.

In a statement, Begum Zia called for "mutual cooperation among the democratic forces to consolidate the victory of democracy achieved through parliamentary elections."

However, Sheikh Hasina sounded a defiant note when she ruled out any possibility of an alliance with the BNP or the right-wing Jamaat-i-Islami Party, which won 14 seats.

"I will not join a coalition with anti-independence and fundamentalist parties," Sheikh Hasina said.

Wednesday's polls were the first in Bangladesh to be held under a neutral government that did not have a stake in the event.

It was not known whether Begum Zia would claim the premiership or name an aide to the post and later put herself up as a candidate in the forthcoming presidential election.

In Bangladesh, the prime minister is simply a nominal head of parliament, who is not empowered to administer the country, command the army or even sack ministers.

Observers Say Elections 'Neutral'

BK2802141291 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] The visiting British and Japanese parliamentary delegations for observing parliamentary elections in the country have described Wednesday's [27 February] polls as unique, impressive and very successful. The two delegations made their remarks when they met Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed separately Thursday morning at his office in Dhaka. The British delegation accompanied by the British high commissioner to Bangladesh, Mr. (Colin Emrys), said they were impressed to see that both civil and military authorities were actually neutral in this election. The Japanese delegation was led by Mr. Hiroichi Fukuda. They said the elections were indeed free and fair.

3 Die in Postelection Violence

BK0103045291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0443 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] Dhaka, March 1 (AFP)—At least three people died and some 50 were hurt in separate overnight clashes that flared after Bangladesh's first free parliamentary polls ended, reports said Friday.

Rivals hacked to death a Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) cheerleader in a late Thursday clash in southern

Khulna City, where he led a parade to celebrate his party's victory in elections to the 300-seat parliament, officials said.

A second BNP activist died and his sister and several others were hurt Thursday in eastern Mymensingh's Brahmapalli County, they said, but did not name the attackers, who also burned four houses during the poll-related clash.

An activist of the defeated Awami League Party was killed and many others injured in a clash during running poll counts in Khulna's Bhola Town Thursday, the officials said, adding some 50 people were injured in the three incidents.

The BNP of Begum Khaleda Zia defeated its bitter political rival the Awami League in Wednesday's polls. The BNP secured 140 seats against the league's 83.

Former Ershad Aide Arrested After Losing in Polls

BK2802125291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1107 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 28 (AFP)—Police arrested a former minister and an aide of ousted President Hussain Mohammad Ershad after he was defeated in Wednesday's parliamentary polls, the Bangladesh Sanbad Sangsthan (BSS) NEWS AGENCY reported Thursday.

Former Tourism and Civil Aviation Minister H.M. Gaffar was arrested in Khulna City late Wednesday after polling ended in the constituency where he was running, BSS said.

He was defeated in the polls by a nominee of the Awami League of Sheikh Hasina Wajed, a bitter political foe of Mr. Ershad.

The news agency did not disclose why Mr. Gaffar was arrested, but said he had gone underground following the ouster of Mr. Ershad December 6.

Mr. Gaffar was one of the 10 nominees of Mr. Ershad's Jatiya (National) Party who remained in hiding while contesting Wednesday's polls to the 300-seat parliament.

Several of the deposed ruler's aides have been arrested since December on various charges.

India

Official Statement Welcomes Gulf War Suspension

BK2802163891 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1517 GMT 28 Feb 91

["Statement on Gulf—28 February 1991"—ISI headline]

[Text] The government of India welcomes the announcement by the president of the United States of the suspension of combat operations in the Gulf. The suspension is a most significant step towards the restoration

of peace in the area and the reestablishment of durable security and stability. We expect that the UN Security Council will meet soon and convert this suspension into a fullfledged ceasefire monitored by the United Nations. Now that Iraq has formally and unconditionally accepted all the 12 Security Council resolutions this should not prove to be a difficult task. It has always been the view of the government of India that the Security Council has the primary responsibility for restoring peace and re-establishing security in this area, in consultation with all the parties concerned. Throughout these critical weeks India has ceaselessly striven to bring the war to an end and to achieve a ceasefire on the basis of the UN Security Council resolutions: only last night prime minister sent a message to the president of the republic of Iraq urging him to accept all the UN Security Council resolutions unconditionally in order to facilitate a ceasefire and to spare further bloodshed and suffering.

We welcome the fact that the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Kuwait have been restored. We also welcome the re-establishment of the legitimate government of the state of Kuwait. The relations between the governments and the peoples of India and Kuwait have through the years been warm and friendly. Throughout the months after the invasion and occupation of Kuwait by Iraq our exchanges with the government of the state of Kuwait continued to be characterised by this traditional warmth.

We are taking urgent steps to re-establish our mission in Kuwait and we are confident that the strengthening and diversification of relations at all levels will continue in the future.

This is not the time for retribution or recrimination. We believe that the international community should now seize the opportunity to heal the wounds of war and lay the foundation for cooperation among all the nations of the area for the prosperity and well-being of their peoples. The international community has also to consider urgently the broader task of reconstruction in the region. India is willing to make contributions and to participate in this effort. The most urgent task before the international community is to rush food and medical supplies and other humanitarian assistance to the people of Iraq and Kuwait. We have made contributions in this regard and will continue to do so.

Gandhi Calls For Restructuring of United Nations

*BK2802160591 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 28 Feb 91*

[Text] The Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, has called for the restructuring of the United Nations. He has also pleaded for a more important role for the Non-aligned Movement [NAM] in the world body. Mr. Rajiv Gandhi was speaking to newsmen in New Delhi today on arrival from his six-day visit to the three nations—the Soviet Union, Iran, and Dubayy.

The Congress-I president congratulated the people of Kuwait on the liberation of their homeland. Mr. Gandhi said that the NAM should have done much to prevent the outbreak of the war.

German President Arrives, Assures Aid To Iraq

*BK2802140791 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 28 Feb 91*

[Text] India and Germany are to step up cooperation in the fields of trade, science and technology, and tourism. The German president, Dr. Richard von Weizsaecker, said this to newsmen in New Delhi on his arrival on a week-long visit to the country. Dr. Weizsaecker is accompanied by a high-level delegation.

Expressing happiness over the suspension of offensive operations by the U.S.-led multinational forces in the Gulf, the German president said all help will be extended to Iraq in the reconstruction activities in the area. Earlier, he was given a ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan [president house]. The president and the prime minister were among other dignitaries to receive Dr. Weizsaecker.

Germany To Give Financial Aid

*BK2802162691 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 28 Feb 91*

[Text] India is to get assistance of about 500 crore rupees from Germany under three agreements signed today. The first, a financial agreement, covers German loans totalling 200 crore rupees. The funds are to be used for fertilizer and capital goods imports from Germany. Part of this assistance will go to the Dadri gas-based project. The technical cooperation agreement extends the Indo-German export promotion project for another three years. Germany will contribute 10 crore rupees toward this project. These government agreements are supplemented by a loan agreement worth nearly 290 crore rupees.

Student Group Claims Kidnapping of MP's Daughter

*BK2802130691 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 28 Feb 91*

[Text] The outlawed Jammu and Kashmir Students Liberation Front has claimed responsibility for kidnapping Mrs Nahida, daughter of the National Conference MP [member of parliament], Mr. Saifuddin Soz. An official spokesman told our Jammu correspondent that some journalists in Srinagar received telephone calls claiming responsibility for the kidnapping. The kidnapers have not yet put forward any demands.

Meanwhile, the state government has claimed some clues in the case. The number of the minibus allegedly used in the kidnapping has been obtained and the security forces have launched an intensive search for the vehicle.

Police Officer Released

BK0103041091 *Delhi Domestic Service in English*
0240 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the militants have released one of the two kidnapped subinspectors, as intensive search is on for the other kidnapped sub inspector and Mrs. Nahid, the daughter of National Conference MP [member of parliament] Mr. Saifuddin Soz.

The director general of state police, Mr. J.N. Saxena, told our Jammu correspondent that the released sub inspector, who was kidnapped around midday yesterday in Baramulla, returned to his unit by the evening. The governor, Mr. G.C. Saxena reviewed the efforts being made by the security forces and other agencies to secure the safe release of both of the kidnapped persons.

As reported earlier, the outlawed organization, Jammu and Kashmir Students Liberation Front, has claimed the responsibility for kidnapping Mrs. Nahid.

Unidentified Gunmen Kill Four in Assam 28 Feb

BK0103032891 *Delhi Domestic Service in English*
0240 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] Four people were gunned down and two others, including a Congress-I worker, seriously injured by militants at two places in Assam yesterday. In Dibrugarh District, unidentified gunmen intercepted a timber-laden truck and shot dead its four passengers after pulling them down from the vehicle at Janakibasti. The truck driver, who was also injured in the attack, was admitted to Dibrugarh hospital.

Official reports say, the security forces and police, during the search operations, have apprehended 24 suspected ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] militants and captured some arms and ammunition from them.

Iran

Velayati Rejects 'Alien Interference' in Iraq

LD2802114291 *Tehran Domestic Service in Persian*
1030 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] Mr. Velayati, our country's foreign minister, has expressed opposition to the disintegration of Iraq, emphasizing the noninterference of others in the determination of the fate of the people of that country.

According to the report by the Central News Unit, Mr. Velayati who was addressing the clerics, professors, and students of Mashhad Seminary, as well as the undergraduates of the Islamic Sciences University of Razavi, today also said: The Iraqi Government was not the sole cause of the Persian Gulf crisis; rather, the nucleus of the crisis was hatched when Kuwait and some other countries of the region strengthened Iraq in her invasion of Iran.

Mr. Velayati added: It is a fact that the Iraqi regime imposed eight years of war on Iran. Yet, through insight and foresight the Islamic Republic of Iran, during the crisis in the region, did not act on the basis of emotions—rather, she acted on the basis of what she deemed to be in the interests of the peoples of the region and of Islam.

The foreign minister added: Since we did not recognize the war in the region as being the war of Islam against infidelity, we could see that the war was about power, and we knew that there was a difference between what Iraq used to say and what Iraq used to do.

Referring to the point that the task to remove the aggression by the Iraqi regime should have been taken up by the Muslim countries of the region, the foreign minister said: It is true that the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait should have been confronted, but not by those who never had the interests of Islam and Muslims at heart and who will never think of those interests. Referring to the need for the restoration of security in the region, Mr. Velayati stressed the Islamic Republic of Iran's opposition to alien interference in the fate of the people of Iraq.

'Speedy Departure' of Foreign Forces Sought

LD2802164391 *Tehran IRIB Television Network*
in Persian 1600 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Text] The Supreme National Security Council held a session this afternoon, chaired by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani and attended by its members, political advisers, and high-ranking military commanders.

During the session, while reviewing the latest developments in the Persian Gulf region, the participants expressed their happiness about the cease-fire and the fact that the people of Kuwait have been able to return to their homes and the bloodshed and destruction have stopped. They also expressed their regret that, because of the stubbornness of the two sides, a great deal of damage and destruction has been inflicted on the people of Iraq and Kuwait.

During the session it was also stressed that lasting security in the Persian Gulf region, as stated in article 8 of Resolution 598, can only be achieved through the cooperation of the regional countries and the speedy departure of foreign forces from the region, the continuation of their stay having no justification, and that the Islamic Republic of Iran will do her best so that peace and security are restored in the region, with the coordination and cooperation of all the regional countries, under the umbrella of which the regional countries could attain lasting peace.

During the session Iraq's territorial integrity and the fact that only the Muslim people of Iraq have the right to determine their fate and government, were underscored. Also Iran declared her readiness to help repair the

destruction resulting from the war and in the reconstruction of Iraq and Kuwait and to help solve the problems of the regional peoples.

Commentary Warns Against Sacrificing Interests

LD2802133291 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1053 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] In the wake of Iraq's acceptance of the Security Council resolutions and the conditions of the multinational forces, a cease-fire is established and the fires of the war have temporarily subsided. [passage omitted]

The world today has reached a stage whereby the developed countries are moving toward supermodernism at an astronomical speed, and precise calculated plans are drawn on every financial asset. One of the main reasons for the collapse of the Eastern imperialism and the Soviet Union's lack of desire to safeguard its superpower prestige is that it is trying to join that fast-moving convoy of progress and growth, the standard-bearer of which at present is the West.

The war was in fact a testing ground for Western weapons, particularly U.S.-made weapons. Thanks to the experience gained in the course of this war, the United States and the West will draw their future armament plans with greater care. On the other hand, the expansion of U.S. influence in the region will increase its interference in future policy decisionmaking in the region, even in those countries which invited the foreign forces to the region. These are only some of the harmful consequences of the wrong calculations made by the man in charge in Iraq.

Iraq's invasion of Kuwait was undertaken under the misconception that the West, in gratitude for the years of service performed by Iraq, would not seriously oppose its move. This misconception was further strengthened in the early days of occupation of Kuwait when there were some superficial disagreements in the ranks of the Western front. The Iraqis thought that the West would not respond harshly, and they therefore insisted to remain in Kuwait until the last phase of the war. Anyway, it is now hoped that the rulers of the region have learned the lesson from the current crisis that relying on the support of aliens at the time of important decisionmaking is the biggest mistake. The leaders of the region could once again repeat the mistake of ignoring the people's wishes and relying on the support of the major powers. The neutral policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran can become an example for other countries of the region and the Third World. That is, one should never sacrifice one's national interests to serve the interests of aliens.

Commentary Views Saddam's 'Unwise Decisions'

LD2802121891 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1058 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The classic war and the bloody tank battle west of Basra were at last suspended when Iraq accepted all conditions of the coalition forces. The military advance, aiming to go deep inside Iraq, was temporarily halted. [passage omitted]

The coalition forces are now taking their revenge for Iraq's illogical intransigence during the crisis; and the allies, by raising a series of conditions, intend to break the political picture that Saddam drew for himself through his slogans and claims in the course of the crisis. But ultimately Saddam's unwise decisions made Iraq's territorial integrity vulnerable and now his own political fate and that of Iraq depend on the talks and decisions made by the allies. In addition, at present the backbone of the Iraqi Armed Forces is broken and this country's infrastructure is in ruins. The people of Iraq not only have to rebuild their country, but they also have to shoulder the heavy burden of reparations which is imposed upon them.

The allies should understand that Saddam's strategic mistakes are not the only factor responsible for what has happened; the grave mistakes made by the allies in the past, particularly during the imposed [Iran-Iraq] war, should also be taken into consideration. But unfortunately, the Muslim people of the region have always ended up paying the price for these mistakes. The leaders of the regional countries should therefore think of a way to prevent such mistakes. They should note that the best way for prevention is through allowing the people to take part in their country's political destiny.

Iraq's 'Humiliation', West's Actions Viewed

NC2802221491 Tehran International Service
in Arabic 1730 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Station commentary: "America Cannot Stay in Iraq"]

[Text] The Iraqi Government finally surrendered to America and the multinational forces and accepted all the terms imposed by the Western allies. The Middle East and the Arab world are currently experiencing a state of astonishment, disbelief, and uncertainty, while the occupier Zionist entity is celebrating the happiest moments in its life.

All those who believed what the Iraqi media told them have now realized a bitter truth; namely, that reality is one thing and media clamor is something else altogether. The Jordanians, the Palestinians, and several others of those who believed that Iraq would stand fast in the face of the foreign forces have also realized that they were deceived once again.

No one denies that three big Western powers, led by the biggest military superpower, attacked Iraq. In general, this result, namely Iraq's defeat, was expected by anyone with the least understanding of military affairs. Despite this, the Iraqi forces' performance in the fighting was very weak and unexpected. These forces lost their combat ability in just six weeks and then surrendered to the multinational forces. This raises the following question: If the Iraqi leadership knew that the West would confront Iraq with such ruthlessness, why, then, did it attack Kuwait? Would it not have been better for the Iraqi leadership to withdraw from Kuwait before matters reached the point where it accepted, under Western pressure, a disgraceful and humiliating surrender?

Within the next few hours and days, those who bear responsibility for the attack on Kuwait, for the humiliation of the Iraqi people, for the military defeat, for the deaths of thousands of the sons of the Iraqi and Kuwaiti peoples, for the destruction of Iraqi installations, which is estimated in the billions, and finally, for the unconditional acceptance of the demands of the Western forces will find themselves forced to answer the questions of the Iraqi people, who will not remain silent.

Of course, the Iraqi people were greatly pleased by the announcement of the cease-fire, because they will no longer have to surrender their sons or their dignity to be sacrificed on the altar of their leaders' ambitions. The whole world is also very pleased, as the dignity of the Muslim Iraqi people will not be subjected to further humiliation.

Nevertheless, one can now predict a very difficult future for the Iraqi Government and people. This leadership has not only failed to gain anything from its aggression against Kuwait, turned many hopes into despair, and sacrificed the lives of thousands of Iraqis, but it has also agreed to pay huge sums as compensation to the Westerners. Today, the Westerners have imposed their conditions on the Iraqi leadership through their guns, and they are now occupying Iraqi territory. The Iraqi leadership's mistakes and lack of experience finally brought Iraq to the brink of the abyss and total destruction.

Heads of governments should know that their people are not guinea pigs who can be deprived of their will and on whom they can carry out their experiments and impose their ideologies. People who enjoy a revolutionary will must not allow their officials and leaders to deal with them as if they were helpless tools on whom these leaders can impose their erroneous ideologies whenever they want through their deceptive media. When these ideologies are proven wrong, these leaderships make other lies to deceive their peoples.

At this critical time, the Iraqi leadership must admit that it was its inefficiency that inflicted all this humiliation and disgrace on the Iraqi Army, crushed it, and destroyed the Iraqi people. Since the beginning of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait, we in Islamic Iran have told the Iraqi leadership that they were making a fatal

mistake with this arbitrary action. However, the Iraqi officials reiterated the same old statements that Kuwait was part of Iraq and that the Iraqi forces would defeat America and the West. Today, they can see for themselves that these statements resulted in Iraq's unconditional surrender to America and the West and to its acceptance of all resolutions and of paying compensation to the Western forces.

America and the other Western states now occupying Iraq must realize that they will not be able to stay in this country. In 1920, the Muslim Iraqi people proved that they would not allow foreigners to occupy their land. Now, after the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait, America and the allied Western states must leave the region and stop threatening Iraq's territorial integrity. The Iraqi people are part of the Islamic nation, and the Islamic world will not allow America to continue its occupation of Iraq in this manner.

Regardless of the developments and changes that may occur within the next few hours, [words indistinct] saving Kuwait from the Iraqi aggression. Such a matter has absolutely nothing to do with the West's continued occupation of Kuwait, the threatening of Iraq's territorial integrity, or the slaughtering of the innocent sons of the defenseless Iraqi people.

Iraqi Leaders' 'Expansionist Desire' Criticized

*LD0103093891 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0400 GMT 1 Mar 91*

[Unattributed commentary in program reviewing foreign radio broadcasts]

[Excerpts][passage omitted] Developments in the course of the war demonstrated that the Iraqi leadership has always been too slow to catch up with the course of events. Not only did it lose every opportunity for peace, but it also conceded to withdraw at a time when there was nothing to gain. This means that the monopoly of decisionmaking in Iraq has dragged that country into two crushing wars. Neither the act of adventurism against Iran during the imposed war, nor the occupation of Kuwait and territorial claims brought the Iraqi regime the slightest success.

Now the Iraqi leadership admits that Kuwait has never been a part of Iraq. It has also taken back all its claims and has agreed to pay war reparations. Is this not a repeat of the events after the Iraqi imposed war against the Islamic Republic of Iran? After that war, the military situation forced Iraq to accept the Security Council Resolution 598; and while accepting Iran's sovereignty over the Arvand River [Shatt al-'Arab], it again endorsed the full validity of the [1975] Algiers accord. Full implementation of Resolution 598 makes it necessary that Iraq must pay for the war damage [to Iran] too.

The two war experiences turned out to be very expensive for the Iraqi people, but at least they can learn a lesson

and that is, not to submit to the expansionist desire of their leaders and the abjectness that it entails. [passage omitted]

Government Offers To Help Extinguish Oil Fires

*LD2802170391 Tehran IRNA in English 1417 GMT
28 Feb 91*

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 28, IRNA—Iran has announced readiness to help extinguish the burning oil wells in Kuwait and Iraq set afire during the war between Baghdad and the U.S.-led multi-national forces.

In separate letters to the oil ministers of Iraq and Kuwait, Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh also mentioned Iran's previous experiences in successfully putting out its oil fields set ablaze during the 1980-88 war with Iraq.

Some 500 oil wells in Kuwait and an undetermined number of wells in Iraq are burning as a result of the Persian Gulf war.

Effects of Abolishing Gas Coupons Analyzed

*NC2802190691 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 27 Feb 91*

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Text] In the name of God.

Last week, our petroleum minister announced the abolition of the coupon and rationing system for gasoline. According to the new plan, gasoline will be sold at 50 rials [per liter] for private and government vehicles, and its subsidy has been discontinued. However, for public transport such as taxis and vans the price has not changed and will continue to be subsidized.

We should mention that in principle, one resorts to ration coupons when demand exceeds supply. The main motive for abolishing the quota system is to achieve a balance between supply and demand. At present, our country of 55 million consumes more fuel than that of a country like the PRC with its population of 1 billion.

Before the Islamic revolution the government had accused the people to extravagant consumption, which made the use of oil products quadruple from 1967 to 1977 and the use of gasoline rise more than fivefold. Unfortunately, despite the policy of fostering austerity in consumption in the aftermath of the revolution, the percentage of produced fuel used domestically rose from 11.4 percent in 1977 to 39.5 percent in 1987—so it is a fact that Iran, which is one of the largest energy exporting countries in the world, itself consumes 40 percent of its own oil products at a time when the energy consumption is increasing all over the world.

The government's measure to abolish the coupon system for gasoline and to sell gasoline at 50 rials a liter was to the benefit of consumers in general, according to the

statistical surveys. Prior to the abolition of the coupon system, the owners of vehicles received a fifth of their needed gasoline for 30 rials and the rest for 60 rials per liter.

In Clause 5 of our general policies as envisaged in the Five-Year Plan for social, cultural, and economic development, it has been stated that for kerosene, gas oil, gasoline, gas, and other products, the trend is to reach a realistic cost price. The income accruing from the increase in the price of these products will be used by the government for investment.

In this regard, to balance the economy and to increase the government's income, the country's economy is moving toward appropriately allocating subsidies for the affected strata and for essential goods.

Concerning discontinuing subsidies for gasoline—in view of the fact that only 5 percent of the people in our country have automobiles and all the others use public transport, there will be no pressure on the deprived and middle strata of the society. As has been mentioned earlier, the Five-Year Plan specifies one of the government's fundamental policies as the constant review of prices for services and government commodities in order to increase government income. This includes changes in the policy of fixing prices for goods and services, including gasoline.

On the basis of the studies by the Plan and Budget Organization, the affected strata of society include the families of workers, employees, part-time workers, martyrs, and the deprived. These groups include approximately 25 to 30 million people who will definitely avail themselves of the subsidies. With the identification of these groups, an acceptable system for subsidizing various goods will be formulated.

A glance at the graph of the income of the Central Bank indicates that there are three kinds of income groups in the country: The first group is comprised of the deprived ones, who spend 80 percent of their income on rationed goods. The second group spends 50 percent on rationed goods. The third group is the affluent stratum of society, who spend only 30 percent of their income on goods available with coupons.

In allocating subsidies, the government should keep in mind the needy groups and strata of society. Of course it is obvious that unless a new system of providing subsidies is developed, essential goods will continue to be available as before with coupons. In any case, the recent action by the government for eliminating subsidies on gasoline is a step forward, which should be considered a good omen. It is a step which conforms with the government's economic policy for reducing the cost of production and consequently of reducing the budget deficit, and this trend will supersede and replace other policies in all developmental plans.

19, 20, 21, 24 Feb Editorials View Gulf Issues

'Precarious Oil Wealth'

[Editorial: "Precarious Oil Wealth"]

NC2802170391 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 19 Feb 91 p 2

[Text] The Middle East, the Persian Gulf region to be more specific, will not see true development and prosperity despite its wealth as long as it possesses within itself a commodity (oil) that is so vitally needed by other countries particularly the Western industrial world.

What makes the region and its people so specially vulnerable is the fact that the industrial consumers of this commodity are used to it at dirt-cheap prices and consider any attempt by any party to raise its prices to bring it on a par with the prices of manufactured goods in the West as a threat to their "vital interests" and get unduly violent to restore prices. In fact, the savage war now being waged against Iraq by the Western world is an organized effort by them to make sure that the low oil prices will remain so and will flow to their countries for the foreseeable future.

Different tactics have been used to ensure the availability of cheap oil. For example, after the Iraqi war was imposed on Iran one of the mechanisms they (the West) recommended to the Arab Persian Gulf shaykhs to bring Iran to its knees was oil or making certain that it would be available abundantly at very affordable prices. They argued that Iran could be well defeated on the economic field through over production and the flooding of the market with oil. This deceptive method implemented by the oil producing countries themselves brought prices to as low as \$7 a barrel, cheaper than its equivalent of Coca-Cola.

With the prices of their products staying the same or rising, the abundant supply of oil brought truly windfall wealth for the industrial countries. Using the scare tactic (Iran as the threat) effectively with the Arab shaykhs, the Western countries amassed billions and billions of barrels of oil. Oil that is now being gradually released into the market to keep the prices at levels acceptable to them. [sentence as published] The stockpile, at the expense of the oil producing countries, is so high that they are now pushing prices down despite the fact that oil fields and refineries in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq are burning.

In the meantime, Western companies' attitude toward the crisis is at best pathetic and vulturous. We have all seen on television how vultures and hyenas hang around the preys in African wildlife seen when they are brought down by their hunting animals. [sentence as published] Ignoring the misery and destruction their governments' combined air force have caused in such an unequal war, they seem to be inebriated with the idea of "reconstructing" Kuwait and Iraq. Actually what they are concerned

about disguised under the word reconstruction is preoccupation with profit making. One would expect more sympathy and understanding from them.

In their efforts to ensure cheap oil, the industrial world's approach is akin to that of a phoenix, or the legendary bird which burns itself to ashes on pyre and rises alive from the ashes to live another time. The difference in the case of the Middle East is that the bird is actually set afire so that when it uses its resources to rise from the ashes others (industrial countries) would profit and prosper. To burn the bird to ashes, sometimes they get in the act themselves, such as now. By the time the war is over, Iraq will have been bombed well in excess of 100,000 times, and if this is not the burning of the bird, then what is it? Other times they wage wars through their proxies, all with the intention of taking advantage of the resulting chaos. Many informed sources familiar with the European economies say that the Western world experienced an economic boom as a result of the Iraq-Iran war.

Both Kuwait and Iraq will be rebuilt because they are sitting on top of a scarce commodity the industrial world needs with the difference that it is going to cost a lot more this time to rebuild them. In the process of rebuilding these two countries' economies a number of goals will be fulfilled. Iraq will be demilitarized so that it would no longer pose a threat to Israel. To make sure the steady flow of oil at low prices Kuwait and Iraq will be provided with financial credits and loans to tie them down so that their oil would be in effect presold to ensure that the excess wealth in Western countries, now controlled by the Kuwaiti government in exile and Saudi Arabia, will stay where they are. A big chunk of it will be used toward the financing of the war and the balance to reconstruct their economies. Saudi Arabia has already applied for a loan.

The occupation of Kuwait by Iraq has been unlawful and condemned globally from the very beginning and Iraq had to be expelled from that country in one way or another. But the question that keeps coming back to mind is: Was the Western world justified to destroy Iraq to the extent that it has to so-called liberate Kuwait? Has this been a war to liberate Kuwait or project an undisputable control over the Persian Gulf's oil wells? Logic tells that it is the latter.

'Another War Tomorrow?'

[Editorial: "Another War Tomorrow?"]

NC2802170791 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 20 Feb 91 p 2

[Text] Since the inception of the Persian Gulf war more than a month ago, the Americans have been insisting that there is no linkage between the occupation of Kuwait and the issue of Palestine. The UN Security Council too has so far been acting in line with this assumption.

But the fact is that with the prolongation of the Persian Gulf war, the world is gradually realising that there is a close linkage between the Middle East issues and the question of Palestine. More interestingly, the Americans, not only in words, but also in deeds, have admitted in the course of the Persian Gulf war, that there is a connection between the current crisis and the Palestinian issue.

Iraq's [as published] extensive bombings, including attacks on civilians and destruction of that country's infrastructure by the U.S. led allied forces, all prove the fact that the U.S. objective is far beyond the liberation of Kuwait, under Iraqi occupation since August 2, 1990.

The Americans imagine that by paralyzing Iraq they would be able to keep Israel immune from any harm by its neighbors. This very desperate attempt by Washington is an open admission on its behalf that the Persian Gulf crisis and the Palestinian issue are linked.

The question is that when will the Security Council realise that a failure to meet the legitimate rights of the Palestinians would every now and then cause the eruption of the apparently silent volcano of wrath and rancor against the Zionists.

If there is no linkage between the occupation of Kuwait and the question of Palestine, as the Americans claim, could the UN Security Council accept that there is also no proportion and suitability between its Resolution 242 on Palestine and Resolution 660 on Kuwait? Isn't it that both these resolutions have been issued in condemnation of occupation of others' territories and stress the need for a withdrawal of the aggressor forces from the occupied lands?

Now that the Iraqi leaders have admitted the illegitimacy of their occupation of Kuwait, the Security Council is facing a very difficult situation. Under the present circumstances the Security Council can no more keep silent vis-a-vis the inhuman attacks of the U.S.-led forces against the Iraqi cities and infrastructure on the pretext of demanding an unconditional withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait. At the same time it has no excuse to be indifferent towards the brutalities of the Zionist regime and its disregard for the Resolution for 242 and the Palestinians' rights.

No matter how the Persian Gulf crisis is going to terminate, whether through a political solution or military means, one thing is clear: This conflict will expose the linkage between the Palestinian issue and the trampled rights of the Palestinians and other Middle East issues.

On January 17, the day the war against Iraq was waged the Americans chose a "war today" to avert a "war tomorrow." And today they have no option but to surrender to the need of implementing the Security Council Resolution 242 in order to avert another war tomorrow. Otherwise, the world will certainly be witness

to another war in the Middle East region in a not too distant future for the liberation of the Palestinians and against the Zionists.

Postwar 'Political Development'

NC2802174191 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
20 Feb 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Aftermath of Persian Gulf War Promises 'Political Development'"]

[Text] On Sunday, this week, Oman's Sultan Qabus declared the imminent opening of a parliament in his country with 69 members. Cairo Radio, announcing this report, noted that all the representatives, except for the Speaker who would be nominated by Sultan Qabus himself, would be elected by the people. According to the report, each city of the Sultanate would have three seats in the parliament.

Despite such a political development engineered by Sultan Qabus, yet it has not caught the world by surprise. Experience gained through history indicates that in the aftermath of each war—now also with the current one in the Persian Gulf—new developments come to the fore. In the post World War II, although allied forces won the war, the battle resulted in the vigilance of many oppressed nations which later achieved independence. But this independence had later adverse consequences for the winners of the war.

Today, many political observers believe that one of the outcomes of the current bloody war in the Persian Gulf would be the fact that perpetuation of present "dictatorial Shaykhdoms" would be impossible. The political impact of such an outcome is emerging now.

However, people of the region should be vigilant to get the best advantage out of the status quo and not let the present regimes resolve their problems by only vertical political reform. People of the region who have gained a "political self-consciousness [no closing quotation marks as published] in the course of the recent events, are expected to first transfer this consciousness into a "political growth" and then, in the final stage, turn it into "political development."

Although one could not be very optimistic that the achievement of the "political development" could be easily materialized with regard to the present regional political-cultural structure, in the light of the current situation in the region, approach towards a "political development" could be regarded as a starting point. However, "powerful foreign hands" which are secretly involved in deviating the "movements" and "popular self-consciousness," should not go unheeded.

Iraqi-Soviet Relationship Viewed

NC2802210491 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian
21 Feb 91 p 16

["Weekly Political Newsletter" by Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani, Foreign Ministry adviser: "The Soviet Union and Iraq"]

[Text] 1. The Soviet Union's interests dictate that it make every effort to save Iraq, because: First, as the southern littoral states such as Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are already haggling and competing over postwar reconstruction, Iraq will most certainly be in a position to depend on the Soviet Union for 15 to 20 years to repair the massive devastation it has suffered. Such dependence would have immense economic as well as political benefits for the Soviet Union!

Second, the continuation and bolstering of the Saddam regime can be used as a lever threatening the interests of the United States and the West as well as the existence of the wealthy countries like Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. The Soviet Union can capitalize on this situation in various ways to, for example, strengthen bilateral relations, ease Western pressure over Lithuania, or even obtain Western economic assistance.

Third, a continued U.S. presence in the region and the continued existence of regimes such as the present government of Iraq, with its record to date of creating insecurity and turmoil in the Persian Gulf region, is to the advantage of the Soviet Union for many reasons, the least of which may be how a reduction of oil exports from the region or an increase in its price benefits an exporter like the Soviet Union.

2. These statements and similar analyses indicate that the Soviet Union is serious in its dynamism and efforts to prevent a land assault in Kuwait, as is Iraq. On the other hand this project entails immense losses for the United States and the only aspect worth discussing in this regard is the Americans' "fear" of a ground assault in Kuwait. The "Chinese" strategy of the U.S. forces has given a boost to Soviet policy: He who professes to be an absolute world power is so "afraid" that his hollowness has been exposed. In fact, as the leader of the revolution has said: The Americans have already been defeated!

3. Soviet policy is seeking to save Saddam, while U.S. policy is bent on toppling his regime. Both policies, however, are based on intervention and domination and, in fact, the objectives pursued by the United States and the Soviet Union are not those that will bring about security and peace in the region, but rather will foster tension and agitation. The Islamic Republic of Iran's efforts to achieve peace and our esteemed president's proposal in this regard are of a different nature from the Soviet efforts: Iran's main objective is to establish security and peace in the region and to rescue it from the domination of foreigners so that they will never be able to install or bring any down any government in this region.

'A Hard Decision'

[Editorial: "A Hard Decision"]

NC2802180691 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 24 Feb 91 p 2

[Excerpts] The U.S. is after a military victory in the Persian Gulf war. It also wants the destruction of Iraq's military machine. Having the likelihood of an Iraqi disintegration in mind, Washington has also planned the formation of a provisional government in Iraq's al-Basrah Province. The ultimate goal behind this measure is the domination of the so-called "new world order" or indisputable U.S. leadership in the world. This is to prove that contrary to the Soviet policy, the use of force plays the major role in resolving disputes. And this requires the world's powerful states to give in to the U.S. leadership at any rate. [passage omitted]

The most difficult decision would pertain to the regional security system and the international security arrangement which have been linked at this juncture of time. Germany is after permanent membership at the UN Security Council and as a great economic power demands a new role in the international security system. Germany believes in the strengthening of the role of Iran and the Soviet Union in the region to the same extent that it is unhappy over the present situation.

Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia are after filling the vacuum of a superior power in the region and a balance of power. But the different ways dictated by the U.S. would prevent the establishment of collective security in the Persian Gulf.

The Soviet Union demands a firm part in an Arab-Israeli peace and keeping its influence in Iraq. Moscow believes that the Middle East issues are in any case linked together and that as soon as Iraq withdraws from Kuwait, the issue of Israel's pullout from the occupied Palestinian lands should be raised.

Moscow would be in difficulty if Washington opposes its measures. On the one hand, there would be internal pressure in opposition to the status quo and on the other Moscow would have to tolerate an unimportant role in the regional and international security arrangements.

The dispute between the influential powers in the Persian Gulf crisis, however, would entail another crisis in the search for their due status in the future of the region. The current crisis in the Persian Gulf will not end with Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait. There would be the crisis resulting from the opposition of the peoples of the region to foreign domination, the crisis as a result of the change in decadent and unpopular regimes in the region, etc. But no one can guarantee that the future crises would necessarily be resolved in favor of the oppressive powers.

'Hypocrisy' of Disarming Iraq

NC2802180891 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
24 Feb 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Disarming of Iraq Steeped in Hypocrisy"]

[Text] The Persian Gulf crisis has reached fateful days and whether a ground offensive breaks out or Iraqi unconditionally pulls out of Kuwait, neither can last long. Iraq's military might has suffered serious damage as a result of the recent U.S.-led coalition air blitz and Iraq's acceptance of an unconditional pullout from Kuwait would seem to stem from this factor.

What is heard nowadays is the issue of 'arms arsenals' in the sensitive Middle East region. Some allies, even the Soviets, have put forward uncalculated proposals aimed at equipping Iraq with arms production system in the future. Some others, such as France, hold that Baghdad should be forced to leave its heavy and chemical weapons in Kuwait. Iraq is certainly equipped with destructive binary weapons and hitherto has shown that she will no doubt deploy them when necessary, as she did during its [as published] 8-year-long imposed war against Iran and its own Kurdish minority. Both of these factors should be brought into perspective.

The first question to be asked is who have provided Iraq with the deadly weapons. Developing and Third World countries do not enjoy such technology to help Iraq achieve this. Western countries when their interests required, supplied Iraq with its arsenals and capability. When she deployed them, they adopted an acute silence with an attitude hidden or sometimes open to public consent.

Secondly it ought to be considered what mechanism the West is trying to implement in the Middle East to gather and stop these weapons, which is happening at a time when the Israeli regime, equipped with all sophisticated weaponry, continues its brutal aggression in Muslim occupied territories and has trampled on the U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and 338 passed some 20 years ago.

Though [the] Palestine issue has got nothing to do with the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, but this exists and it should receive due attention of the world public opinion. [sentence as published]

Westerners should understand that as long as the Palestinian problem remains untackled and the Zionist regime maintains its belligerent attitude, no Muslim country in the Middle East will allow the West to decide what kind and to what extent weapons are deployed. This does not mean that a country should ignore international rules and regulations on the use of internationally banned weapons.

Reportage on Karrubi's Visit to North Korea

WA2802181191

For reportage on the visit to North Korea by the delegation headed by Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi, please see the Northeast Asia section of the 28 February and subsequent issues of the East Asia DAILY REPORT.

*** RESALAT Report on 24 Jan Majles Session**

91AS0525A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 26 Jan 91 p 5

[Excerpts] Legal and Majles Section—The Majles met in public session last Thursday morning and afternoon.

At this session, after comments from the Amol and Sari deputies, as well as remarks by Mr. Mohtashemi in answer to what Mr. 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri said on Wednesday, based on Article 77 of the internal guidelines, the Majles began its agenda and the task of considering the details of the Budget Bill for 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992].

Kazemi-Dinan, Amol Deputy

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's public Majles session was Mr. Seyyed Mahmud Kazemi-Dinan, of the Amol va Larijan electoral district.

He said: Once more the fate of human beings and all the sacred shrines of humanity, especially those of the Muslims of the world, has been endangered as Zionism achieves its evil objectives. [passage omitted on Praise of Khomeyni]

Addressing the enemies of Islam, he said: This path you have adopted is no remedy for the danger you sense from the thoughts of the imam and the guidance of his successor.

He added: It is hard to believe that America and its allies, which are smeared tooth and nail with the blood of millions of people, in their support of the rights of nations and in defense of the invaded Kuwaiti territory have doused themselves in fire and flame and have come from far and near to gather at this place and torture themselves. It is also hard to believe that Saddam has put himself in harm's way to defend the sanctuary of Islam and the Koran, to defend and protect the capital and treasure of the Muslim and non-Arab nations? These people, who themselves have repeatedly violated the peace, want to establish peace in the area, after invading the soil of Palestine and Lebanon around Israel and sending their friends and defenders to the occupied areas. [passage omitted on condemnation of Zionism and US]

What is happening today under the auspices of the coalition of nations and what is really coming down on the people of Iraq under the banner of Zionism, and what has been done to the Muslim people of Iraq at Saddam's hands arises from the same ideology.

The slaughter and forced migration of the Kurds, the chemical bombing of the oppressed people of Halabcheh, depriving the people of Iraq of their sleep on various pretexts in the invasion of the sanctuary of the Islamic revolution in the pursuit of its satanic objectives and whims, are not less than the crimes of world-devouring America.

Continuing, Mr. Kazemi-Dina said: Saddam is trained in the school of the Ba'th Party (Michel 'Aflaq Sahiyun). All these people are taught by godless tutors, and they think of nothing other than Satan and carrying out his commands. They weigh everything in material terms and obey the commands of a sorcerer. They are all sworn enemies of divine unity, and they bear an old grudge in their breasts. [passage omitted on Great Satan, mischievous actions in the area]

He added: Saddam is doing the same things the Great Satan and the little satans are doing. They are all seeking the Zionist objective. [passage omitted on Islamic history]

America and the swordsmen who have come to the area as its mercenaries must realize that humanity is tired of them and fears them. Do you not, like the condemned shah, hear the cries of the people? Are you not warned by these marches, and the burning effigies of Bush and the American flag? Humanity is fed up with you. Praise to the leader of the Islamic government and uprising which has frightened America as the imam did. He has proclaimed a solution to the problems of the region by the nations of the region, and greetings to the powerful government nurtured by the imam, Mr. Rafsanjani, who, under the imam-like guidance of the exalted leader in the terms of the Koran and Islam, announced the position of neutrality in the war against the False, and who has clearly perceived that these savage wolves, whether attacking an oppressed victim in a pack or whether baring their claws at some point against one of their own, are still wolves. Therefore, to defend either party to the conflict is to waste oneself. Therefore, if we are to fight the enemies of Islam one day, firing the first bullet at Saddam's chest is a good beginning. We must certainly realize that all these people are mercenaries. They are mercenaries for Israel and finally, at the orders of the idol-worshippers, wherever they see the interests of their masters endangered they appear immediately and send the army of Satan in that direction. [passage omitted on past events of the Islamic Republic]

Seyyed Hasan Shefa'i, Sari Deputy

Mr. Shefa'i, Sari deputy, was the final pre-agenda speaker. In his talk he discussed the fact that the evil things being done today in the region are hidden from no one. He said:

As first one to attack another Islamic nation, Saddam, with his opportunism and zeal, has given the enemies of Islam a way to justify their crimes and come into the area, every grain of whose soil has supported the blessed footsteps of His Holiness the Prophet of God (God bless

him and grant him salvation), the immaculate imams (upon them be peace), the companions of the Prophet of God (God bless him and grant him salvation) and the martyrs of Badr and Uhud [battles during the early years of Islam]. This great crime is the greatest and most dangerous of all Saddam's crimes. Although America and its allies are trying to portray their activities as a quest for rights, help for the oppressed and preventing aggression, obviously this slogan of theirs has not been accepted anywhere in the world. Even in America itself the demonstrations in the cities and the popular movements which are being carried out all show that this action by America and its allies has not been perceived as a humanitarian measure. Not even one slogan has been chanted about liberating Kuwait. All of them are saying no blood for oil. Obviously the people of those countries realize that their countries are fighting to plunder the financial resources of the region (of course their goal is not only oil, it also includes many political and military issues).

Continuing, he expressed the hope that America and its allies would not achieve their goals and that they would leave the area in disgrace and failure.

He said the destruction of the economic and financial resources in Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have caused unrest and anxiety, and expressed the hope that with the efforts that are now underway they would reach positive positions of strength.

[Passage omitted on praise for Khomeyni] He said: ...If we accept the imam's legacy, as we claim in our slogans and speeches, even now when our wise leader and Vali-e Faqih [supreme jurisconsult] is among us and has planned and chosen the path with discussions and study, what can be the cause for unrest? What are we seeking with our zeal and excitement? Do we have something else in mind, other than doing our duty? If we do not consider it sufficient to obey the Vali-e Faqih in the performance of duty, who is it that designates our duty? Where is the value that defines duty for us? Based on what we have heard, the legitimacy of our government under religious law is determined by the view of the Vali-e Faqih the Vali-e Faqih. If his view is favorable, they are religiously lawful. These beliefs are the basics of our government, and we all accept them. Therefore, agitation here is completely meaningless and without basis.

The speaker then added: (1) There is one scenario that says we should fight America alongside Saddam, with his cooperation, since America is an aggressor, a plotter, and so forth. (2) [The second scenario says] we could stand with America and fight Saddam, since he is also an aggressor. (3) [The third scenario says] we could enter the fray independently and fight both powers as aggressors and oppressors. (4) [The fourth scenario says] we should be neutral in the war and seek to limit the war and prevent the extensive losses that are being incurred. Which of these four scenarios is legitimate and acceptable? Which one can we implement, and move in its

direction? Can we be aligned with America? Certainly you will say no. Can we be aligned with Saddam? If the answer is affirmative, what will we say to the families of martyrs? What will we say to the impotent and flogged former prisoners of war? If the Supreme Security Council had come to be of the opinion that we should be aligned with Saddam, would some of us not get up behind this very podium to shout, O esteemed martyrs, your blood has been shed for nothing, the nation's officials, indifferent to you and your families, have gone looking for your enemies and have become aides to the enemy? Would you not be making this objection? If you would not, I would. There are gentlemen who out of passion and a lost sense of responsibility, got into this position or any other, and with the zeal and excitement which is not worthy of some scholars, they have boldly and impudently invoked the name of the exalted leader as if to advise him and teach him something he did not know, as if he did not know his duty, in terms and expressions that are chilling and devastating. The gentlemen who would say those things know that well, and it is not so that they are not aware of it.

At the end of his speech, Mr. Seyyed Hasan Shoja'i emphasized: The Vali-e Faqih is the greatest principle in the Constitution and we consider obedience to him everywhere as an obligation for ourselves. [passage omitted on Velayat-e Faqih]

'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi Comments Under Internal Guidelines Article 77

RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent reports that after the remarks by the pre-agenda speakers, Hojjat ol-Islam val-Moslemin Karrubi, Majles speaker, authorized Mr. 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, Tehran deputy, to speak for 10 minutes under Majles Internal Guidelines Article 77. At the meeting of Wednesday 24 December 1990 Mr. Mohtashemi spoke after Mr. Nateq-Nuri, Tehran deputy, and while giving a memo under the guidelines he said that Mr. Nateq-Nuri had distorted his remarks. Internal Guidelines Article 77 says: "If during a talk an accusation is directly made or implied against a deputy, or if his views and remarks are said to be illegitimate, at that same session or at the next session that deputy may be authorized to speak for ten minutes without regard to his position in the speaking sequence to refute the accusation or correct the mistake."

Mr. Mohtashemi began by saying: These days the media, the newspapers, the public forums and various circles, by distorting issues and remarks and creating an atmosphere of fear, have created a very poisonous atmosphere. I hope all this is out of ignorance, otherwise, if it is on the basis of accusation, calumny and character assassination, they will certainly be punished by God.

Our assertion was and is that all the afflictions of Islam, the Muslims and the nation of Iran come from the Great Satan, criminal America. Just as the naive thought that when the shah left everything would be done and his holiness the imam (peace be upon him) said "we must

cut the hands of the traitors out of this nation. We say that the one who committed the major betrayal of this nation is America. Today we are involved with America extensively, these people are their leaves and branches. The shah is one of America's branches."

In his message accepting the resolution, his holiness the imam said the main reason for the crimes of the eight-year imposed war was as follows: "O God, you know that we do not compromise with the infidels. O God, you know that world imperialism and world-devouring America have dismembered the petals of the flowers of the garden of your mission." All the crimes of the monarchy from 5 June 1963 to 11 February 1979, the mass slaughters in the cities and villages from 11 February 1979 until today, the events in Kordestan, Azarbayjan, Torkoman Sahra, Sistan va Baluchestan, the various minigroups, the coup d'etat plots, such as the Nowzheh coup d'etat plot, the direct American military raid on Tabas, the traitor Bani Sadr, the training and sending of undercover agents, spies and saboteurs, and finally the disastrous imposed war by the Ba'ath regime of Iraq were all caused by America."

He added: However, with regard to the deviations that have been carried out, you dear deputies and brave people of Iran know that no one has defended Saddam and that we believe in implementing articles seven and eight of Resolution 598 and we believe he must be punished. Intellectuals and those familiar with the foundations of Islamic theology know that there is "primary jihad" and there is "defensive jihad."

In the view of most theologians, "primary jihad" requires permission from the immaculate imam (peace be upon him), but "defensive jihad" not only does not require permission from the immaculate imam, neither does it require the authorization or command of the special or general deputy of the immaculate imam (peace be upon him), and the deviations which intentionally and unintentionally have occurred due to not knowing the fundamentals, take place precisely at this point. They cited traditions on the subject of jihad, while we were discussing defense of Islamic lands and the Muslim people of Iraq. I cited the chapter on defense from the [book] Tahrir-ol Vasileh, issue seven, "If any Islamic government is threatened by foreign invasion, it is incumbent upon all the Muslim nations to defend it by any possible means, as it is incumbent on all other Muslims." The issue is quite clear and plain, its meaning is specific, and it was precisely along this line that the exalted leader approached the subject of confrontation with America in the Persian Gulf and called it as jihad for the sake of God, and said that being killed in so doing would be to die for the sake of God. Is this defending Saddam? Definitely not.

His Holiness Ayatollah Meshkini, the respected chief of the Assembly of Experts announced clearly at the Friday prayer service and elsewhere that he is ready to fight America in the region. Is this for the defense of Saddam? Or is it to guard Islamic land and defend Muslims and

the Islamic world? Beginning in the year 1366 [21 March 1987 - 20 March 1988] the mercenary Sabah regime gave America a foothold in the Persian Gulf in its own defense, and at Kuwait's request tens of American naval warships have maintained a presence in the Persian Gulf. At the same time, the American military did not prevent the occupation of Kuwait, and just as I said, it is naive for anyone to think that America has come to defend against aggression and that it will leave after the expulsion of Iraq from Kuwait. America has come to cut off the roots of Islam and the Muslims. America has come to destroy the sacred sites and noble shrines in Mecca, luminous Medina and noble Jerusalem.

America has come to put down the intifada and stabilize Zionist rule from the Nile to the Euphrates, and today, to house Jewish emigrants from all over the world in occupied Palestine and make refugees of the rest of the Palestinian Muslims, it is about to give the usurper Zionist regime \$13 billion.

America has come to monopolize all the values of the Islamic revolution and the Islamic Republic through the dominance of the regimes which have submitted to it in the vicinity of Iran, and after Iraq, this circle will be complete when an Americanized government comes to power in Afghanistan.

He added: I say this today so it will be conclusively proven to everyone. Will the sacred laws of Islam permit the Muslims of the world to watch the destruction of an Islamic land and the wealth and resources of Muslims by infidels and Christians? Does Saddam personally own the people and country of Iraq so that if harm comes to them, it would hurt him? Have the thousands of tons of bombs and missiles fallen on Saddam's head, or on the heads of women, children and men in the cities and villages of Iraq and Kuwait, from Basra to Amareh, Kuch-e Samaweh to north Iraq, Noble Najaf, Exalted Karbala and Baghdad and Kazemin?

Have we forgotten that the imam said even if we forgive Saddam, we will not forgive Fahd and the Saudi family, because they bloodied and killed hundreds of pilgrims beside the House of God, destroying the sanctity of the Kaabah. Is it not true that today the Saudi family has made the Hijaz and the divine sanctuary the center for an attack by American idols? What has happened that the crimes of the main enemy of Islam and the Muslims, world-devouring America and the criminal Saudi family have been forgotten and some people are seeking to create relations with Fahd's mercenary regime?

In conclusion, I call upon all the clergy, the sources of emulation and the scholars in the seminaries and Islamic nations to carry out their Islamic duty and responsibility. Today the main enemies of Islam and the Muslims, the head of world infidelity are the president of the United States and Zionism. By God, it is a great crime if measures are not taken in word, deed and action to eliminate and kill the Great Satan America. Muslims

must attack and destroy all the interests of America and Zionism throughout the world.

Relations must be cut with England, this clever imperialist government, supporter of Salman Rushdie and America's main partner in this disastrous war, and all forms of contact and relations with the regime of the Saudi family must be cut. If America is seriously confronted, all the small and large idols from Saddam to Fahd, Husni Mubarak and all America's other mercenary rulers will be dumped into the trash can of history.

Legislations

The report from RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent on Thursday's public Majles session states that another group of proposed amendments to the notes for the 1370 Budget Bill were considered and approved by the deputies. According to Note 17:

A - the sum of 3 billion rials in the operational budget allocation and 4 billion rials in the capital investment budget allocation needed by the universities and institutions of higher learning will be available for use as follows:

1 - Thirty (30) percent of the operational budget allocation is for expanding the senior expert and doctoral programs in the universities and institutions of higher learning.

2 - Fifteen percent of the operational budget allocation is to implement Notes 46 and 47 of the law of the First Economic, Social and Cultural Expansion Plan.

3 - The remaining amount in the operational budget allocation is to compensate for the shortage of funds to cover the costs of the universities and institutions of higher learning.

4 - The sum of 3 billion rials of the capital budget allocation is exclusively for completing semicomplete projects and the sum of 1 billion remaining rials in the capital budget allocation is for basic repairs to buildings and universities and institutions of higher learning.

B - The sum of 2 billion rials in the operational budget allocation and the sum of 3 billion in the capital budget allocation needed by the universities and the medical science universities will be usable as follows:

1 - Fifteen percent of the operational budget allocation is to implement Notes 46 and 47 of the law on the First Economic, Social and Cultural Expansion Plan.

2 - The remaining amount in the operational budget allocation is to compensate for the shortage in the funds to cover the expenses at universities and medical science departments.

3 - The sum of 2 billion rials from the capital budget allocation is solely for completing semi-completed projects and the sum of 1 billion remaining in the capital

budget allocation is for basic repairs to buildings and facilities at universities and medical science departments.

C - To solve the problem of shortage of space and difficulties at the university dormitories, the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran is required to provide to the relevant ministries the needed credit to a maximum of the amounts set below through the national banking system in the form of interest-free loans or participatory loans or other Islamic contracts without using the government's public funds as follows:

1 - The sum of 20 billion rials is to buy buildings and convert them to student dormitories at the disposal of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education.

2 - The sum of 8 billion rials to complete and construct student dormitories and the sum of 4 billion rials to buy buildings and convert them to student dormitories at the disposal of the Ministry of Education and Training.

D - All the executive organizations drawing from the operational and capital budget allocations for research must spend at least 15 percent of the allocation through the universities and institutions of higher learning affiliated with the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education and the Ministry of Health Care, Treatment and Medical Education, and the University Crusade.

Organizations exempted from the provisions of this paragraph will be designated by the Council of Ministers.

Note 18 - The budget allocations for 1370 [21 March 1991 - 20 March 1992] in the letter of agreement for national and provincial development may be increased by a maximum of 25 percent as follows:

A - By decreasing the allocations in other development projects within any plan.

B - By decreasing allocation for projects in other programs in the same section provided that the decrease or increase in total allocations of each plan does not exceed 10 percent.

C - Increases are authorized in the allocations for projects which have been designated as important projects, or which end in 1371 [21 March 1992 - 20 March 1973], not to exceed the allocations for the following year, and the projects whose final year is 1370 [21 March 1991 - 20 March 1992], as well as the projects mentioned in Note 16 of this law to a maximum of 200 billion rials through decreases in other national projects as recommended by the Plan and Budget Organization and approved by the Council of Ministers.

A minimum of 30 percent of the above allocations must be allocated to sewer projects.

D - Increasing allocations in province development projects in every section is authorized for one or two years through decreasing allocations up to five percent

observing the provisions of Paragraphs A and B in this note and other additions to them.

E - Any kind of decrease in province and national budget allocations in the deprived districts and the villages located in the beneficiary sectors and the rural and tribal budget allocations and also the decrease in allocations for any major and important project is forbidden.

F - In view of the importance of the projects in the water sector and the significant advance in these kinds of projects and in view of the fact that the ceiling provided in the budget is not adequate, to assure the timely procurement of the credit needs of these projects it is agreed that of the allocations in Note 18 enacted in 1370 the minimum figure of three percent is allocated for the water sector with the approval of the management of the Plan and Budget Organization.

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal

Nepali Congress Sure of Majority in May Polls

BK0103022891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1937 GMT
28 Feb 91

[Text] Kathmandu, Feb 28 (AFP)—Nepal's largest democratic party, the Nepali Congress, is fully confident of winning a majority in the country's general election, scheduled for May 12, a senior party official said Thursday.

"We will win the general election hands down with a majority but our efforts will be to capture a two thirds majority", the supreme leader of the Nepali Congress, Ganesh Man Singh, told reporters.

He cautioned that some elements may attempt to disrupt the election, pointing specifically to the Nepal Communist Party (NCP), which had decided to boycott the polls in protest at Nepal's new constitution which it has dubbed a "black constitution."

"The Nepal Communist Party should play an effective and strong role against the Nepali Congress in the house of representatives in order to make the democratic system more successful and people oriented," Mr. Singh said.

Mr. Singh also accused the NCP of "terrorizing" Nepali Congress workers in rural areas, citing an unsuccessful attempt on the life of the Nepali Congress general secretary, Girija Prasad Koirala, while Mr. Koirala was on an election campaign in Pyuthan District, 390 kilometres (243 miles) west of Kathmandu.

Commenting on the economic situation in Nepal, which he described as "very grave," Mr. Singh said: "Only the elected government could play a positive role to provide an economic comfort to the common people."

"There is full understanding and unity among the top leaders of the Nepali Congress. We are all united for the protection and healthy growth of the democratic system," Mr. Singh said.

Meanwhile, a Nepali Congress source confirmed that the party's president and current prime minister of the interim government, Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, would stand for election in one of the capital's constituencies.

Pakistan

Nawaz Sharif Urges Gulf Security Plan

BK0103084091 Islamabad Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, has said Muslim countries of the region should evolve a system of collective security in the Gulf in the postwar scenario. He was addressing a news conference a short while ago at Islamabad airport on his return from his official visit to China. He said Pakistan's Gulf policy which was based on principles had been fully vindicated by the outcome of the war. The prime minister said his government had not resorted to any political expediency and devised straightforward policy which was in consonance with the reality. He said Pakistan believes that it was a duty of the international community now to give similar importance to the resolutions on Kashmir and Palestine as it had given to the one on the Gulf war.

The prime minister expressed his complete satisfaction over the outcome of his visit to China and his talks with the Chinese leaders which related to the Gulf situation, political and economic issues, and bilateral matters. Earlier, the prime minister was given a warm send-off when he left Beijing for home after a four-day official visit to China.

On Role in Postwar Gulf

BK0103120691 Islamabad Domestic Service
in English 1100 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, has underlined Pakistan's potential to play an important role in the postwar situation in the Gulf. Addressing a news conference at Islamabad airport today on his return from China, he said the decision on Pakistan's role would be taken in consultation with Saudi, Kuwaiti and other regional friends. The prime minister expressed happiness at the restoration of Kuwaiti sovereignty and offered Pakistan's full assistance to that country in its economic reconstruction. He pointed out that Pakistan's stand on the Gulf War which is based on principles has been fully vindicated by the outcome of the war. In this context, he regretted that certain vested interests had tried to make political capital out of the situation by trying to create trouble and playing with the sentiments of the people.

Earlier, the prime minister was given a warm send-off when he left Beijing for home.

Editorial Views Saddam's Belligerence

BK0103120591 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES
in English 1 Mar 91 p 6

[Editorial: "After the Ceasefire"]

[Text] In a dramatic development US President George Bush has ordered a ceasefire in the Gulf war. "Kuwait is liberated, Iraq's army defeated, our military objectives met", he said while suspending offensive combat operations. The ceasefire would become permanent once Iraq meets all conditions which include the release of hostages. Britain and France have followed the US lead and announced an end to the fighting. Earlier Iraq agreed to abide by all the 12 UN Security Council resolutions and announced its readiness to release all prisoners of war, accept demands for reparations and abandon its claim to Kuwait in return for a ceasefire.

News of a ceasefire in the Gulf will be received with satisfaction and relief all over the world. President Saddam Husayn has been punished for his blunder of occupying a sovereign state which had one time advanced him billions. After doing one wrong he tried to justify it by committing more wrongs. He defied world opinion for too long and caused unprecedented damage to his country and his people. His belligerence has harmed the Muslim cause and created dissensions in the Islamic world. Now that it is all over, Iraq must stand by what it has committed to do after the ceasefire. It must comply, in letter and spirit, with all that is laid down in the 12 UN Security Council resolutions. On their part, the US-led allies should not be too harsh in dealing with Iraq after the ceasefire. In their euphoria of victory they should not try to dictate unsavoury terms to it. Public feelings in the region have been inflamed by the war and need to be cooled down. Any attempt to humiliate Iraq will be against the long term interest of peace in the region. A massive programme will have to be launched to rebuild what has been destroyed during the last 42 days of intense fighting. US Secretary of State James Baker will be visiting the Gulf next week to begin discussions on stabilizing the area. Besides thrashing out details of how the conditions laid down in the UN Security Council resolutions are to be implemented there is need to chalk out a plan for long-term stability in the region. It is essential that the question of security in the area is left to the regional States to sort out. The lack of a homeland for the Palestinians is an issue which concerns the entire Islamic world. It is a problem which should be tackled without delay. Putting it off on one pretext or the other would only keep the fire smouldering under the surface.

Implementation of UN Resolutions Urged*BK2802145991 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1400 GMT 28 Feb 91*

[Text] Welcoming the cease-fire, an official spokesman in Islamabad has said that Pakistan has been very happy and satisfied as the move has put to an end the bloodshed in the Gulf. He hoped that the Security Council will now work expeditiously for a formal cease-fire and for an early settlement to the crisis which will bring lasting peace and ensure the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the countries of the Gulf region. The spokesman said that the recent events have once again underscored the need for the implementation of other outstanding UN resolutions.

Sri Lanka**Security Forces Prepare Operation in Northeast***BK0103121291 Colombo International Service
in English 1045 GMT 1 Mar 91*

[Text] The security forces are now preparing a massive operation around the Madu Church area. The refugees in this vicinity were informed to move out through leaflets. This has also been brought to the notice of all nongovernmental organizations there, including the UNHCR [United Nations High Commission for Refugees] and the ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross]. This was disclosed by the minister of state for defense, Ranjan Wijeratne, at the weekly news briefing at the Gramodaya Center in Colombo yesterday. Speaking further, the minister said that these areas were being operated by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam].

The operation on the Mannar front is progressing satisfactorily. The minister, in reply to a question, said the refugees in the Madu Church area have been told to move into Mannar Island and Vavuniya temporarily until the operation is over. The minister at the very outset outlined in detail the operations conducted by the security forces in the north and east.

In the eastern region, the forces have successfully completed clearing operations up to (Wevagarh) from north of Batticaloa and south of Trincomalee. They have established detachments. This will enable them to provide irrigation facilities to the farmers in the area. In the operation at (Vavurai), the forces were able to recover several weapons and ammunition. Minister Wijeratne pointed out that a few LTTE terrorists who created nuisance in some areas in the Batticaloa and Amparai Districts have been killed and weapons recovered. The security forces also recovered a large quantity of ammunition at Muttur.

Meanwhile, the minister said that on the 21st of this month, at Siyambalanduwa in the Moneragala-Amparai sector, the police arrested 18 JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] suspects and captured some weapons. During the operation, a large extent of ganja [marijuana] plantation was destroyed. In a shootout, a well-known JVP leader, Dharmatileke alias Kuamar, was killed and a few other wanted JVP cadres were also arrested. There were no police casualties.

Mr. Wijeratne said that when he visited Vavuniya last weekend, he was able to see the progress achieved by the security forces. Checkpoints have been advanced 7 km of the Vavuniya town. A large number of people were seen at the Vavuniya bazaar buying goods. He added that he was confident that normalcy would prevail soon in this area as in the case of Batticaloa and Trincomalee.

At Palampattu in Trincomalee, the LTTE in an ambush killed one officer and five soldiers. The Navy apprehended several boats mainly bringing fuel (?handled) by Indian businessmen along with Sri Lankan Tamils who are being arrested. Secretary to the Defense Ministry, General Cyril Ranatunge, and state secretary to the minister of state for defense, Air Chief Marshal Walter Fernando, were present at the news conference.

Wijeratne Says Council for Northeast Unnecessary*BK2802081791 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English
0609 GMT 28 Feb 91*

[“Oana/Pool item”]

[Text] Colombo, 28 Feb (LANKAPUVATH)—Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne squashed any speculation about an interim council being set up in northeast Sri Lanka.

In response to questions at today's Cabinet briefing at the Gramodaya Centre in Colombo, Mr. Wijeratne said India had made no such proposal, officially. He did not know whether an interim council had been unofficially mentioned.

The Cabinet spokesman said an interim council for the northeast was not necessary. The administration was being carried out by the governor until such time as fresh elections were held.

He said the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] had decimated the Tamil leadership and it was unnecessary for politicians [words indistinct] the wrath of the LTTE. “We want to have them alive rather than dead,” said Mr. Wijeratne.

He said this was a matter entirely for the Sri Lankan Government.